

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LVIII.]

HONGKONG, MONDAY, 15TH JUNE, 1903.

No. 24

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Hongkong	419
Leading Articles:—	
The Dumping of Plague Bodies.....	420
The Plague Epidemic.....	420
Russia in Manchuria.....	420
Free Trade.....	421
The Mail Contract.....	422
The Straits Currency Question.....	422
Peking as a Treaty Port.....	423
The Wedding of Captain Arbuthnot and Miss Blake.....	423
The Health of Hongkong.....	425
The Kwangsi Famine.....	425
New Tung Wa Hospital Branch.....	425
Bacteriological Department in 1902.....	426
A Chinese Clan-fight.....	427
Murder by a Foreigner in Shanghai.....	427
Canton.....	428
Pakhoi.....	428
The Situation in Kwangsi.....	428
Northern Notes.....	429
Corean Affairs.....	429
Tibet.....	429
Correspondence.....	429
Kwangsi Famine Fund.....	429
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.....	430
Nippon Yusen Kaisha.....	430
Hongkong's Assets and Liabilities.....	430
China Mutual Life Insurance Co., Ltd.....	431
Supreme Court.....	431
A Test Case at the Police Court.....	432
Royal Hongkong Golf Club.....	432
Hongkong.....	432
Commercial.....	432
Shipping.....	431

BIRTHS.

On the 4th May, at Dorking, the wife of HUGH CLIFFORD, of a daughter.
On the 31st May, at 275, Woosung Road, Shanghai, the wife of LESLIE H. GABB, of the Shanghai Waterworks Co. Ltd, of a daughter.
On the 1st June, at No. 1, Carter Road, Shanghai, the wife of H. MARKER TAYLOR, of a daughter.
On the 1st June, at No. 11, Museum Road, Shanghai, the wife of W. H. MOULE, of a son.
On the 3rd June, at 3, Seymour Road, Shanghai, the wife of HERBERT GEORGE DOWLER, of a son.
On the 4th June, at St. Peter's Rectory, Shanghai, the wife of the Rev. J. LAMBERT REES, B.Sc., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 1st June, at Shanghai, at the Church of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Hongkew, by the Rev. Father J. Savary, S.J., CARLOS C. DA COSTA, third son of the late FRANCISCO GOMES DA COSTA, to MARIA LOURDIS, eldest daughter of ULIVIO A. VIEIRA.
On the 3rd June, at H.B.M. Consulate and afterwards at the Church of Our Saviour, Hongkew, by the Rev. Fleming James, PERCY MONTAGU, youngest son of THOMAS BEESLEY, of Warrington, Lancashire, and "Springbank," Stretton, Cheshire, to RUTH HUNTER, eldest daughter of the late ANDREW Mc ELVIE, of Greenock, Scotland.
On the 8th June, at Union Church, by the Rev. C. C. Hickling, WILLIAM G. GERRARD, son of PETER GERRARD, Old Meldrum, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, to ELIZABETH A. PORTER, daughter of MORGAN PORTER, Lexham Gardens, South Kensington, London.

DEATHS.

On the 3rd June, at Shanghai, ROBT. BRADSHAW MOORHEAD, late Commissioner, I. M. Customs, Ningpo.
On the 6th June, at his residence, 103, Bluff, Yokohama, CHARLES DAVIS MOSS, aged 60 years.
On the 6th June, at Yokohama, CHARLES D. MOSS.
On the 12th June, at 1 p.m., at his residence, 6, Peaconsfield Arcade, ALBERTO R. ELIAS, Consul for Peru, Hongkong.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The *Ernest Simons*, with the French mail of the 15th ult., arrived on the 14th inst. (3) days)
the *Nippon Maru*, with the American mail of the 16th ult., arrived on the 13th inst. (29) days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The plague cases from the beginning of the year to date in Hongkong numbered 1,170 at noon at Saturday.

H. E. Tsen Chun-hsuen, the new Viceroy of the Two Kwang, passed through Hongkong yesterday on his way to Canton.

The Chinese Throne sanctioned on the 11th inst., the scheme for building a railway from Shanghai to Nanking.

Small-pox is said to be still prevalent in Peking, and *L'Impartial* says that over 1,000 deaths are recorded from this disease alone.

Our Shanghai correspondent informs us that the working of the Marconi telegraph between the Italian Legation, Peking, and Taku is quite successful.

The French gunboat *Oly* returned last week to Chungking owing to her boiler bursting when on the way to Suifu. Two men were killed and two injured.

A hurricane has occurred in the Philippines in which four American steamers, including the transport *Sumshui*, have been lost. The loss of life is not yet known.

Herr Lyburg, German Consul-General at Batavia, has been transferred to Yokohama, replacing Herr Coates, who has been appointed Minister at Bangkok.

Official returns have been published of the number of Japanese in Siberia at the end of last year. In Vladivostok there were 2,996, in Nivalisk 544, in Khabarovsk 201, in Nicolaefsk 250, and in Blagovestchensk 203.

L'Echo de Chine says in reference to the recent miners' outbreak in Yunnan, that M. Delcasé has received a telegram from Peking announcing that all the French citizens have arrived at Yunnanfu under escort, and would be quite safe there.

The Board of Revenue, Peking, was burnt on the 9th inst., at night. To prevent the flames spreading the French Hospital and the Board of Rites were intentionally destroyed. Foreign troops were employed to extinguish the fire, which was fortunately not serious.

Yokohama has been declared a plague-infected port by the Russian Government. A death from the disease occurred in the harbour of that port on the 28th ult., the victim being one of the Chinese crew of the Hamburg-America steamship *Aradonia*.

According to the *P. & T. Times* of the 30th ult., the Empress Dowager is said to contemplate replacing Prince Ching, "who will not get well." All the officials of the Waiwupu have applied for sick leave, and there was nobody to negotiate with M. Lessar.

According to the Japanese paper *Mainichi* the Manager at Peking of the Russo-Chinese Bank is reported to have stated at a dinner party, recently that Russia intends to take possession of the Yalu Valley and will eventually open negotiations with Japan for the dividing up of Corea.

One of the Chinese students in Japan has returned and gone up to Peking for the purpose of watching the Government policy with regard to Russia. This looks, says the *P. & T. Times*, as if they were very much in earnest over there, and as if an element of danger to her own peace was already being created within China's borders.

The *Universal Gazette* gathers that Viceroy Tsen is bringing with him from Szechuan to Kwangtung a number of troops who were efficient in putting down the disturbance in the former province. Over six hundred of these troops are reported by the *Gazette* to have arrived at Hankow by steamer from Ichang and nine hundred more were expected in a few days.

The Tokyo correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* reported on the 4th inst. that the session of the Japanese Diet closed that day without incident. The House of Peers passed all the financial measures as amended by the Lower House, but has adopted a resolution condemning the reversion to the policy of making loans for the prosecution of public works, except in unavoidable cases. Both Houses passed the Bill extending the Formosan camphor monopoly system to the whole Empire.

The *Sinwén-pao*, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, states that 5,000 of the *Hufei* or mounted bandits of Manchuria who were recently enlisted by the Russians and organised by them, are to be received into the ranks of the Moukden army, with the sanction of the Russian authorities, and further that the Tartar General Tséng Chi is desirous of sending his new levies to the vicinity of Shaphaikwan for the purpose of being amalgamated with the Chinese forces there. As Viceroy Yuan Shikai is in command over Shanhaikwan and the troops there are his, he may suspect some ultimate design in this latest phase of Russian complaisance in allowing men armed and organised by them to join the regular troops.

The *Shanghai Times* publishes a despatch of the 3rd inst. from Nanchangfu, Kiangsi province, in which it is stated that among the students of the Provincial College for Western Learning established there by the former governor, there are more than twenty who propose to go to Japan to join the Volunteer Corps, recently formed by the Chinese students, now studying, for the purpose of following the Japanese army to Manchuria to fight the Russians in the event of war breaking out between Russia and Japan on account of Russia's refusal to evacuate Manchuria. The students have also asked their Director to introduce physical and military drill into the College, and to use the piece of land at the back of the College premises as a drill-ground.

THE DUMPING OF PLAGUE BODIES.

(Daily Press, 8th June.)

As will be seen from the latest plague returns the number of bodies found in the streets of Hongkong or on the hillsides continues to form a considerable proportion of the total cases. We learnt last Thursday from the reply of the Acting Medical Officer of Health to Mr. H. E. POLLOCK's questions at the Sanitary Board meeting that the current plague season has furnished the highest percentage of "finds" to cases on record. Last year, during a comparatively mild epidemic, the number of discoveries of plague-infected bodies rose nearly eight per cent. above the previously worst year, 1900. Yet the 35.5 of 1902 has been totally eclipsed by the 37.5 of this year. The dumping of bodies is a question which has been frequently discussed in these columns and elsewhere in the Press of Hongkong, while the sanitary authorities have not disguised their recognition of the important part taken in the continuance of the disease by this criminal practice. In the conclusion of his report, dated last December, on plague in Hongkong, Professor W. J. SIMPSON put among the five main causes of the endemicity of the disease here "the practice of dumping dead bodies in the street and thus effectually concealing the infected houses." There is indeed no disagreement of opinion in the Colony as to the intimate connection between dumping of bodies and the persistence of the epidemic. Nor can there be much doubt that Dr. PEARSE was right in the conviction he expressed on Thursday that "disinfection and dumping stand in the mutual relation of cause and effect." The Acting Medical Officer of Health went on to say that, as he did not feel justified in recommending any serious alterations in the methods at present adopted to deal with plague, he was of opinion that "unless some method of bringing the offence home to the offenders by severe punishment be devised we must always expect to have some bodies dumped in the streets." Now it cannot be denied that there has been some mitigation of late of the hardships accompanying the cleansing of infected premises, and we trust that the recent discussion of the methods of the disinfecting gangs will not be without its effect. But it cannot be hoped that the process of disinfection can ever be anything but distasteful to those who with their properties have to undergo it—and who are for the most part people of a class entirely uneducated in matters of hygiene. There are no means of educating these people in the right direction (save what little can be done by the distribution of handbills) and there must be a limit to the deferring to the convenience of these unfortunate enough to be in the position of plague contacts. There is left therefore nothing but the question of punitive measures against "dumpers." The third of Mr. POLLOCK's questions last Thursday ran as follows:—"How many convictions in respect of the dumping of dead bodies in the streets have taken place before a Police Magistrate:—(a) During the year 1900; (b) during the year 1901; (c) during the year 1902; (d) from the 1st of January, 1903, to the date of report. What penalties were awarded in respect of each of such convictions, and state the cases, if any, in which the party elected to pay the fine instead of undergoing imprisonment?" Unfortunately the reply to this question has not yet been made public, and it is therefore impossible to say at present to what extent the activity of the police has been rewarded.

The answer will be awaited with interest. But anyone who has paid attention to Police Court affairs must know that charges of dumping and convictions have been lamentably few in comparison with the number of dead bodies found. This is not surprising in view of the fact that those intending to deposit a corpse in the street have ample opportunities in the course of a night of escaping police vigilance for the necessary few minutes. As, however, it is plain that dumpers cannot well have carried the body any considerable distance, a scheme (well adapted to Chinese ideas) has already been advocated in former years of punishing the neighbourhood in default of the actually guilty individual or individuals. There are no doubt many difficulties in applying such a scheme to Hongkong, but they can hardly be considered insurmountable. As for the injustice of fining a street or part of a street, it must not be forgotten that the spread of plague in a neighbourhood is a far heavier penalty than a pecuniary infliction. The severest problem would be the discrimination between cases of dumping and cases where a plague-infected person has dumped himself down (if we may use the expression) to die. Whether any solution to this problem could be found we cannot say. It is obvious that any system of fines would have to be carried out with the greatest possible caution. The idea, however, cannot be dismissed as entirely out of the question while the terrible evil of dumping is on the increase and the offenders can but so rarely be caught and punished.

THE PLAGUE EPIDEMIC.

(Daily Press, 11th June.)

The prevalence of plague naturally continues to absorb a great deal of public attention in Hongkong, and the number of European cases recently reported has of course made a considerable impression on the minds of the white community here. Into-day's figures the occurrence of six more European cases, following on that of nine in twenty-four hours and four in the previous forty-eight, shows that in this year's record the proportion of European cases must necessarily be high. Yet, in spite of the inevitable disconcertment produced by such statistics, particularly after an abatement of the disease in 1902, it would be unwise to let any feelings of undue alarm gain ground. As far as we can discover, the type of the disease among the European patients has been generally mild. Indeed we have heard it suggested that a few people have actually been sufferers in a very slight degree without the fact being discovered; of course it is not possible to verify the truth of such a theory. Nevertheless, from the number of persons attacked, this year must rank unenviably high in the history of epidemics in the Colony, though fortunately we may now reckon ourselves to be at the climax of 1903. We are in the twenty-third week of the current year. In 1896 the culminating point was in the twenty-first week of the year; in 1898, in the nineteenth week; in 1899, in the twenty-fifth week; in 1900 in the twenty-sixth; in 1901, in the twenty-second; and in 1902 in the twenty-third. In all cases it may be said that the drop was very rapid when once the crucial point was reached. As the behaviour of the epidemic has been markedly regular, there is a certain amount of satisfaction to be derived from these figures.

In other parts of the East plague seems to have made itself heavily felt this year. The latest detailed figure from Bombay, given in the *Times of India* of the 23rd

May, showed 15,400 deaths from this cause in India in the previous week as against 20,000 in the week before that. The death-rate was then still double that of the same period in 1902. In Bombay city itself the week May 15th—May 21st showed 311 plague attacks and 296 plague deaths, the total for 1903 being 827 as against 1,132 in the same week of 1901 and 766 in the same week of 1902. The latest figures which we have seen of Bombay's population put it at about 850,000. As Hongkong's estimated population on the 30th June last was 311,824, we are able to arrive at some notion of the comparative severity of the disease in the two places, and it will be seen that, heavier sufferer as it undoubtedly is, Bombay is not justified in deriding, as it has done in the past, the seriousness with which plague is treated here. It is but natural that any city should look on its own ills with a particularly sympathetic eye and on those of others with less attention. But, as it is not long since a Bombay criticism of Hongkong's attitude toward plague was quoted in an official despatch in order to counteract the effect of the local complaints publicly made, it is only just to point out that Hongkong is with good reason concerned over the struggle which it has to maintain.

RUSSIA IN MANCHURIA.

(Daily Press, 10th June.)

How little intention the Russians really have of retiring from Manchuria is evidenced not only by the constant increase of their military forces in that country, and the steps they are taking all the while to make their footing there permanent, but also by the determination shown to oust foreign trade. Even in such a small matter as the export of timber from the Yalu district they have seen fit to interfere. The Weihaiwei Gold Mining Company, Limited, recently sent an order to the Yalu for timber for use in the mines, but the Russian military authorities refused to allow the order to be filed. As a matter of fact, Russia not only holds Port Arthur and district, she has established herself on the Yalu and at Newchwang, and has no apparent intention of evacuating the country, all statements to the contrary notwithstanding. The process by which the Russian Government set about this work of annexation is a simple but effective one. They instruct their officers to continue a forward policy, and when the seizure of a city, district, or province has aroused the ire and subsequent protest of other Powers, they meet it with a polite disclaimer of any aggressive intentions. When various high-handed acts, showing what the intention of the Russian officers plainly is, have been committed, and further remonstrances thereby evoked, these are met with fresh disclaimers and the action of the Russian officers solemnly repudiated, the Powers begin to think that the Government of the TSAR is actually sincere in its promises. But as time runs on, and no attempt is made to fulfil the pledges, an uneasy notion arises that the Powers are being fooled, that Russia is really in sympathy with no Power, and that she is merely bent upon making herself paramount in China. Still nothing is done beyond protests being entered. The allies—Great Britain and Japan—are loth to make a *casus belli* of the infringement of the Treaties by Russia, as she is continually engaged in explaining that the action of her officials is not intended to be what it seems; that she is only engaged in protecting the Trans-Siberian Railway,

&c., &c. They know that these explanations are utterly false, that the wily Muscovite is merely engaged in trying to throw dust in their eyes; but they do not feel prepared to provoke a great war by retorting that she is a liar and a fraud and knows she is, and so the game goes on. How far Russia is to be permitted to proceed with her little game of showing that black is white it is difficult to say. The position of the allies is an awkward one. They find it almost impossible to draw a hard and fast line at which they can say to Russia—"Thus far and only so far shalt thou come," because the circumstances are peculiar and embarrassing. It might be easy for Russia to place them in the wrong, and the struggle that would be involved by forcing on the issue is so large and serious that they hesitate to incur the odium and responsibility for so deadly a conflict. At the same time it would seem that the limit of the forbearance of the allies has been well nigh reached, that though they may be prepared to make sacrifices there is a point beyond which they are not willing to go, and if that point be reached the fat will be in the fire and the blaze in Far Eastern affairs near at hand. It is, however, to be hoped that all the resources of diplomacy will be exhausted before any appeal to the arbitrament of the sword is decided upon. It is not a light thing in these days to incur the responsibility of letting loose the dogs of war.

FREE TRADE.

(Daily Press, 9th June.)

How long a formula which once denoted a thing of life can contrive to exist long after the original is dead, shrunk and shrivelled is curiously exemplified in the howl of indignation with which Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S proposal to afford some reciprocal favour to the colonies has been received by the self-constituted leaders of the Liberal Party. When in 1846 Sir ROBERT PEEL announced in the House of Commons his conversion to the principles of Free Trade, of which at the time the late Mr. COBDEN was the apostle, Free Trade was a living entity, and had become under the altered conditions of the world a matter of life and death for Great Britain. The old system of protection which was once and for ever given up had been one of isolation; every community thought to "protect" itself against every other by raising such fiscal barriers that the trade which they both desired, unable to bear its aggravated burdens, fiscal and otherwise, lay down by the wayside and gave up the ghost, or at best dragged on a feeble existence uncomfortable to itself and an embarrassment to the nation at large. Sir ROBERT PEEL'S first tentative proposals enable us to see what a real menace to the existence of the country had become these fiscal barriers to trade. In January of that year he proposed a reduction of the duty on imported wheat; the rate at which he suggested fixing it is an indication of how impermeable were the barriers spoken of. Wheat was to pay a fixed duty on entrance of ten shillings per quarter—so long as the price in the market did not exceed forty-eight shillings the quarter, but if the shortness at home should be so serious as to raise the market value above this a gradual reduction was to be made till it stood at fifty-three shillings. Circumstances were, however, stronger than men, and in the following year, all parties being now thoroughly convinced of the necessity of the case, the corn duties were finally removed, and the once celebrated "Anti-Corn-law League" dissolved. Sir ROBERT PEEL

had before this gone out of office, but in resigning he had paid a high tribute of respect to Mr. COBDEN, to whose able conduct the introduction of the Free Trade policy had been mainly due. We know the rest. Under the auspices of Free Trade the trade, and following the trade, the wealth of the country went on increasing by leaps and bounds. It was the belief of Mr. COBDEN, and not of him alone but of many other far-seeing men, that when the other great nations of the world saw the enormous advance being made by England through her adoption of a Free Trade policy, they would one by one come in and worship at the new shrine, and peace, plenty and brotherly love would prevail amongst nations. The Powers were indeed willing to acknowledge that Free Trade was a very good thing indeed for England; one or two did indeed advance a little on the way of believing it good for themselves, but in most cases the old leaven was too strong; and Free Trade, good though it might be for England, was not good enough for them. More than this, carrying the argument to the furthest limits it could stand, it began to be a new principle of faith that what was good for England must *pari passu* be bad for them. How, however, was the undoubted success of England's policy to be counteracted? The system of the old Protection had been tried and found wanting; it hampered their own trade indeed but it seemed to have little or no effect in checking England's progress. There was clearly but one way to set about the task; and that was to seek by every means to turn England's Free Trade against herself. Seventy years ago Germany had been split up commercially into a number of petty states, each of whom carefully "protected" itself against its neighbour. That there was any trade between these incoherent particles was the wonder, rather than that it was as small as it proved. So thought a number of energetic men, and under their influence the barriers to the internal trade of Germany had been removed, to the no small advantage incidentally of British trade, though that of course formed no portion of the original plan. The hint was taken. The old Protection had failed because the constituents were too small; enlarge the elements and abolish for ever this bugbear of British Free Trade. Now if Germany, and the other countries that held with her that the growth of British trade constituted of itself a menace and a danger, had been content to work on these lines we should have, so far from bearing a grudge, wished them a hearty Godspeed. The benefits to be derived from Free Trade are not one-sided; it benefits him who gives as well as him who receives, and the surest sign of a wholesome trade is that importer and exporter derive mutual and reciprocating advantages. Everything accordingly, the true Free-trader holds, that has a tendency to disorder the free current of trade has a distinctly deleterious effect. This is one of the essential principles of political economy which the apostles of the science never failed to impress on their votaries. Now the homely proverb tells us that there are many other ways of killing a dog than hanging him, and our Continental ill-wishers finding that the ordinary process of asphyxiating British trade resulted in failure, determined to try the other process of undermining its constitution by serving out unwholesome dainties. In other words the free flow of trade is to be hampered by bounties, subsidies, drawbacks and private arrangements of every sort, public or

private. It is the interference with the natural laws of supply and demand, not the method of their application that is here the danger to be guarded against. We might by the application of duties or other exactions have prevented the profitable growth and export of sugar from the West India Islands. So far as the islands are concerned the effect would have been exactly the same as came about by the continental custom of granting bounties on the production and export of beet sugar. Both are equally offences against the laws of Free Trade, and both in the course of events must have to pay a penalty more or less direct. Unable to see the essential part of the fiscal crime, the modern disciples of COBDEN would see in any attempt to set their principles right an outrage on an innocent country. The most extraordinary feature of this present squeamishness is, that if the circumstances were reversed these degenerate disciples would be the first to make the welkin ring. Suppose, e.g., that the British Government were to announce its intention of granting a bounty to every bale of a particular quality of goods sent out of the country, what would these disciples of COBDEN do? We need hardly suggest the answer, for the whole country would rise against the act. Suppose, however, the thing were actually done, and the Continental nations were to reply by putting on a countervailing duty, would not these same disciples of COBDEN seize with avidity the opportunity of expressing their approval of the measure, and so of discrediting their own Government? We are not saying that they would do wrong; on all principles of sound financial science they would be more than justified. Now the circumstances at the moment are not altogether different. Other Powers have been trying by the bribe of lower duties, lower freights, and the hundred and one other ways in which nations try to affect the course of trade, to raise up artificial inducements to lead trade out of its proper channels, and we under our narrow constrained views of the eternal principles of political economy, of which Free Trade is a distinguished corner-stone, find ourselves without any effectual means of restoring the natural flow. What are we to do? The matter is a momentous one, and on the answer may depend much of our future prosperity. Are we with our arms in our hands to stand by while the enemy removes our dykes, and erects new barriers to deflect the stream into his own preserves; or are we to stand on our own ground and refuse permission to the intruder to enter on our territories? This is the question that is being raised by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. Is there any doubt on which side the lovers of the country, be they Free-traders or not, or rather because they are Free-traders of the manly and wholesome style of ADAM SMITH and COBDEN, will be found?

The Ichoufu correspondent of the N.C. Daily News wrote at the end of last month:—Since the Chinese New Year your correspondent has travelled rather extensively in the southern part of Shantung and has once penetrated Kiangsu province as far as Shanghai. During these months he has had constant occasion to observe the attitude of the people toward the foreigner, as shown by friendliness or its lack, by reviling and by kindred things. In Shantung the opprobrious name "foreign devil" was heard once, and friendly faces and friendly voices greeted one everywhere. However, no sooner had the line into Kiangsu been crossed than the attitude of the people changed decidedly. Cold looks, indifference, and unpleasant language were in constant evidence. Why this difference? Geographical position alone will not account for it.

THE MAIL CONTRACT.

(Daily Press, 12th June.)

The statement made by Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN during the debate on the Post Office estimates in the House of Commons this week, that notice has been given to terminate the P. and O. Co.'s contract, is not necessarily to be interpreted, we imagine, as implying that after the expiration of the present contract the mails will be carried another way; but it may be considered certain that any contract which may be entered into with reference to the Eastern mails will stipulate for a much accelerated passage. Discussing this subject recently, we pointed out that the progress of telegraphy is gradually rendering the importance of the mails for business purposes less and less; and decidedly the near future must see a large reduction in the present disproportionate rate for telegraphy to the Far East, still further facilitating the conduct of business by cable and leaving only the confirmatory work to the mails. But there is of course an ever increasing domestic mail which it is impossible to disregard. This, in the North at least, has already begun to make use of what opportunities there are already for a more rapid communication between the Far East and home. Unless, however, the Trans-Siberian line be the route ultimately selected for the granting of the contract it is not to be expected that the Russian Government will put themselves out to arrange a supplementary mail for the benefit of those who wish to send their letters overland. We have not received any indication that the Postmaster General gave more than a hint as to the probable destination of the new mail contracts. We should imagine from the meagre report which we have received that the alternative of the Canadian route was under discussion. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN himself admitted that the Canadian Pacific service had not fulfilled expectations, and severe criticisms of the C. P. R. as well as of the P. and O. contracts are recorded. There are plainly before the Government three alternatives with regard to the mails. The first is the renewal of the contract with the P. and O. Co., for their services as at present, but with an acceleration of times, or the granting of the contract to another company on such terms. The second is the transfer of the China mails to the Canadian Pacific Company, the nearer eastern mail being left still with the P. & O. or given to another company. The third and last is the adoption of the Siberian route. The more important of the determining factors in the situation seem to be, firstly, the willingness of the steamship companies to guarantee a more rapid service of boats and, secondly, the ability of the Russian railway line to run trains with security and regularity. That the former companies can save a very considerable amount of time on the present journey, if they consider it worth their while, is plain. With regard to the Trans-Siberian Railway, the majority of European passengers who have travelled seem to have been favourably impressed, but there is of course no certainty of service at present. Another point to be considered is that there is no likelihood of official despatches being entrusted to Russian hands, which is an argument in favour of obtaining a quicker British sea-service for the whole of the mails, if possible. Nor must the general reluctance, partly sentimental, partly practical, to send British mails by a non-British route, after so many years, be left out of account. In these days of a closer drawing together of Great Britain

and the colonies, with the prospect in view of a connection of all important parts of the Empire by entirely British cable-lines, it is a step in the reverse direction to transfer the carriage of the British mails to alien hands. We can hardly believe it likely, unless the shipping companies concerned prove very ambitious indeed in their terms, that any British Government of the present day is likely to place the contracts out of the hands of British subjects. Personally we think that most Britons in the Far East would be glad to see the mails carried by their countrymen on condition that the favoured companies honestly determine to do away with antiquated methods and unnecessary delays.

THE STRAITS CURRENCY QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 6th June.)

The reports, which have now reached us, of the meeting of the Legislative Council at Singapore on the 29th May serve to emphasize the impression which one could not but have received previously of an unanimity of feeling in the Straits Settlements with regard to the question of a fixed standard of exchange. It is true that, as had already been announced here by telegram, there was one dissident to the motion introduced by the Hon. W. T. TAYLOR on the 29th ult. But the report of the meeting shows that the Hon. G. S. MURRAY's opposition to the motion that the Council should declare itself in favour of the adoption of the recommendations of the Committee on Straits Currency was not owing to his desire to perpetuate the existing state of affairs; indeed, such a supposition would be impossible, for Mr. MURRAY was one of the sponsors of the scheme put forward by the committee of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce in 1897 for bringing about the change to a fixed standard in the Straits. Mr. MURRAY opposed the motion last week because of the dangers which he considered to exist in the recommendations of the Currency Committee.

The Colonial Secretary, in proposing his motion, referred cursorily to the chief points of the already published report. He pointed out the unanimity of opinion of the Committee and the agreement of all the witnesses called, whether advocates or not of fixity of exchange with a gold standard, as to the feasibility of the proposals of the Committee as put to them. The proposals of the Committee, he said, were in the interests of the general community, not of individuals, and he deprecated destructive criticism as being "cheap." He mentioned that the Government had received a communication from the Singapore Chamber of Commerce intimating their approval of the proposals in the report and the appointment of a sub-committee to watch over the measures taken by the Government for giving effect to the change of currency, whose advice and assistance would be at the disposal of Government if required. The Hon. T. E. EARLE, who seconded the motion, committed himself unreservedly to its support and said that, if the Government elected to follow the scheme set forth by the currency committee to the letter, he was content; if they decided to make modifications of the scheme he was equally content. Differences of opinion as to details in a matter of this kind were inevitable. The attitude he was going to adopt was to leave these details to the people who had to work the scheme. Mr. MURRAY followed with the only speech against the motion, commencing by describing as unfair the way in which the openers of the debate had attempted to suppress

destructive criticism. He had been a consistent supporter of fixed exchange for years, he said, and he did not want anything he said to be taken as an indication that he was going away from his conviction in that matter. The only thing he wanted from Government now was a pronouncement of the method it was proposed to adopt in carrying out the recommendations of the Currency Committee. He thought the proper course to adopt would be to adjourn the debate, and to send the report to the Chambers of Commerce of Singapore and Penang, asking for their detailed criticism clause by clause as to the practicability of the scheme. He trusted Government would not take his criticisms as absolutely in opposition, but as intended to lead them to consider whether they could not bring about fixity by a method somewhere between the schemes of this committee and of the Chamber of Commerce [in 1897]. He thought it was possible to bring such a decision about, and with a minimum of disturbance to the trade of the Colony. The Hon. TAN JIAK KIM, the Chinese representative, speaking of the counter-petition of his compatriots, which had been duly considered by the Currency Committee, was sure he was expressing the feelings of the Chinese when he said that they would now submit to the conclusions of the Currency Committee in whom they had the greatest confidence, and would do all they could to support the Government in carrying out the scheme. The Chinese petitioners had done their duty in placing their views before the Committee. After the Colonial Treasurer had prophesied the success of the scheme, H. E. the Governor made the closing speech—except for a few remarks from Mr. MURRAY—in which he touched on some of the criticisms of the scheme. He saw a certain amount of impropriety in asking the Secretary of State after they had ten years' consultation in Singapore and Penang, to refer back a question of this kind to a committee of gentlemen who have at any rate the reputation of being experts, and then to take their report and ask the Chambers of Commerce of Singapore and Penang to criticise it paragraph by paragraph. This view was evidently that of the meeting and the motion was carried by eight votes to one.

Singapore may therefore be said to have entered upon the last stage in the movement from a fluctuating currency to a fixed rate of exchange, which must be the financial ambition of every community as a whole, though not of course of every individual. Hongkong, in the meantime, has only taken the first step, by interesting itself in the discussion of the possibility of a change. There is extant, however, the appeal of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce for a consideration by a committee of enquiry of the Hongkong currency question. Were this appeal to be heard, there would at least be the possibility of Hongkong being put in the same position as Singapore, and that with less expense of time. But in any event there would be the satisfaction of the knowledge that a question so serious to the welfare of the Colony had received the best available expert consideration, which at present it cannot of course be claimed that it has received.

It is stated from Berlin that the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank will pay a dividend of nine per cent. for the year 1902 (as against seven per cent. in 1901); the Russo-Chinese Bank 8 per cent. (as before); and the Suez Canal Company 109.16 francs per share.

PEKING AS A TREATY PORT.

(Daily Press, 11th June.)

We wrote recently in these columns urging that Peking should, as the Foreign Ministers there were reported to be pressing the Chinese Government to make it, be declared a Treaty Port. We pointed out then that though Peking has little real trade and no manufactures to speak of, there are some very substantial reasons why it should be thrown open to foreign commerce and residence. We are glad to see in a letter of the Washington correspondent of the *New York World* that "in the negotiations for a commercial treaty with China, Mr. HAY has asked that Peking shall be made an open port; Mr. HAY desires not only to extend American trade, but also to render the operation of carving up China by the various European nations as difficult as possible. Mr. HAY believes that the opening up of the port of Peking will do more than anything else to delay the partition of China, and will largely balance the closing of the Manchurian ports by Russia." Mr. HAY's view is an eminently sound one, and we trust that the United States Government will do all in its power to get Peking added, as it should have been in the earlier negotiations, to the list of Treaty Ports opened after the events of 1900. As we stated in dealing with this subject before, even if the opening of Peking were to drive the Chinese Court, still in reactionary hands, to take up its residence further south, that too would not be disadvantageous, for the influence of Russia would decline with the removal of China's capital to some point more distant from her frontiers.

THE WEDDING OF CAPTAIN ARBUTHNOT AND MISS BLAKE.

At St. John's Cathedral on the 8th inst. the wedding took place of Miss Olive Blake, daughter of H.E. the Governor Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to Captain J. B. Arbuthnot of the Scots Guards, M.V.O., A.D.C. to His Excellency. The marriage ceremony provided one of the most brilliant society functions ever known in Hongkong. About a thousand invitations had been sent out, and there was a very large attendance in the Cathedral during the service, which was conducted by Bishop Hoare. The number and costliness of the presents testified to the popularity of the young couple. After the ceremony a reception was held at Government House, and later the newly-married pair departed for Mountain Lodge; on Thursday evening they left for Macao on the *Stanley*.

The ceremony was fixed for five o'clock. Guests had been requested to be in their places ten minutes before that hour, and by the time specified the seats of the Cathedral were fully occupied by ladies and gentlemen awaiting the coming of the wedding party. The guest-list will be found below, but it may be mentioned that no section of the community was unrepresented. The absence of Major-General Sir William and Lady Gascoigne was commented on with regret. We understand that their absence in Macao is due to Lady Gascoigne's indisposition of some weeks' standing.

In preparation for the ceremony the Cathedral was bedecked with greenery, over 200 potted plants being provided by the Afforestation Department for the purpose. These were tastefully arranged by Mr. J. H. White, the vergier. At the entrances palms were trained into the form of arches and along the central aisle lovely pots of maidenhair fern hung from the pun-kah supports. On each side of the chancel steps were lofty palms, also forming arches; while coming to the altar the design of the decorations was relieved by vases of nicely arranged white tuberoses and lilies. Long before five o'clock the seats were filled, about 800 people being

accommodated inside whilst some thousands were content to crowd outside, excellent order being kept by a posse of police under Capt. Lyons and Inspector Baker. The weather was fitting to the occasion, being just cool enough to make the wearing of silk hats, with their accompaniment of frock coats, bearable. A quarter before the hour the bridegroom, attended by his groomsmen, the Hon. H. W. Trefusis, was in his place at the chancel steps. Lady Blake, escorted by Sir J. Keane, arrived shortly after five. Her ladyship was becomingly costumed in amber figured silk, and held a bouquet of purple orchids. The service was opened by Mr. A. G. Ward playing the voluntary—"Cantilene Nuptiale" (Dubois). Miss Blake on arriving at the porchway was welcomed with as joyous a peal as the Cathedral's four bells are capable of. A pretty picture was presented as the bride left her chair: the very chair-coolies lent an additional touch of colour to the scene with their scarlet uniforms, as did also the indispensable police constable. The entrance of the bride's party was the signal for the choir to commence the hymn, "Hark! hark! my soul." All eyes were turned on the bride as she walked up the aisle leaning on the arm of her father, who wore the uniform of Colonel of the Hongkong Volunteers. Miss Blake looked very handsome dressed in a gown of ivory douché satin, with point d'esprit chemisette, fichu of chiffon, and spray of orange blossom, and wearing a tulle veil: besides wearing ornaments presented by her mother and father and the Duchess of S. Albans, she carried a bouquet of tube roses and lilies. The little bridesmaids were of the prettiest, and wore white satin Empire dresses, trimmed with pale pink chiffon with sashes of the same tied in a rosette under the arms and trailing behind to the feet—not a very great distance—white silk mittens, and sprays of pink roses in their hair. They were Misses Phoebe and Iris May, daughters of the Hon. F. H. and Mrs. May, Miss Margaret Goodman, daughter of Chief Justice Sir William and Lady Goodman, and Miss Jean Robertson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Robertson. Each carried a bouquet of pink roses tied with ribbon, and wore gold brooches representing spread wings with green enamel and pearl shamrock pendant, the gifts of the bridegroom. The first and last verses of "Hark! hark! my soul" having been sung, the Right Rev. Bishop Hoare, attended by the Rev. G. A. Bunbury and assisted by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, performed the marriage service. A full choir being present, the choral portions were effectively rendered. During the chanting of the LXVII psalm the officiating clergyman followed by the newly-married couple proceeded to the altar rails, where the Bishop instead of taking the usual words in the marriage service, gave a short address, trusting that they would realise in their daily practice that they were heirs together of eternal life. On the conclusion of the address the hymn "O perfect love" was sung kneeling, after which a blessing was pronounced to which the choir sang Stainer's harmonious "Sevenfold Amen." The parties next proceeded to the vestry, where the register was signed and congratulations, etc., given, during which Mr. Ward played Tourn's "Allegretto Grazioso." To the thrilling strains of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" from the *Sherwood Forest*, the band and organ, the bridal party left the church. The Hon. Gershom Stewart acted as chief usher, and was assisted by Messrs. H. W. Looker, T. C. Grey, and M. Stewart.

The ceremony at the Cathedral being finished, a move was made to Government House, where all the guests were received on their arrival by Sir Henry and Lady Blake and afterwards by Captain and Mrs. Arbuthnot. The front lawn and the interior of the house were beautifully decorated and in the gardens the band of the *Sherwood Foresters* played a well chosen selection of music. After the photographing of the bridal group and the inspection of presents, tea and other refreshments were served in the Ball Room and adjoining room, and then the ceremony of cutting the wedding cake followed. H. E. the Governor first proposed the health of bride and bridegroom, expressing how touched he and Lady Blake had been by the general expressions of goodwill and finishing by wishing the newly married

couple Godspeed. Three cheers and a "tiger" were given before Captain Arbuthnot replied on behalf of himself and his bride. He made a happy and effective speech and in conclusion cut the cake, which was then distributed. After a short interval Captain and Mrs. Arbuthnot reappeared and took their departure for the Peak amid the customary showers of rice and a few slippers, accompanied by hearty expressions of good wishes. The bride was in a dress of cream gauze material, trimmed with lace, and wore a pink hat. As the couple left the gates of Government House a volley of crackers announced the fact and gradually the guests dispersed.

Telegrams of congratulation were received from Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia, Sir Horace McMahon, His Honour J. H. Stewart Lookhart, and many other friends.

The guest-list was as follows:—Mrs. and Miss Armstrong, Hon. Dr. and Mrs. Atkinson, Major and Mrs. Ayerst, Major and Misses Bryan, Mr. Bremner, Mrs. and Miss Bateman, Mr. and Mrs. F. Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. Bowdler, Miss Barr, Major and Mrs. Baker Brown, Mr. and Miss Bird, Colonel and Mrs. Birdwood, Mr. J. F. Boulton, Miss Barker, Mr. J. Barton, Miss Baker, Archdeacon and Mrs. Banister, Sir Henry, Lady and Misses Berkeley, Major H. H. Brown, Major and Mrs. Bewley, Mr. and Mrs. Boggan, Mr. R. E. O. Bird, Mr. Hart Buck, Mr. G. Bruns, Mrs. J. W. Brown, Rev. and Mrs. Bunbury, Major and Mrs. Benson, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Captain and Mrs. Boyd, Mr. D. E. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Beck, Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, Mr. A. Babington, General and Mrs. Bragg, Dr. and Mrs. Bell, Mr. Brazier, Major and Mrs. Bunny, Rev. and Mrs. Bridie, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Murray Bain, Dr. Barnett, Major and Mrs. Caulfield, Major and Mrs. Chapman, Mr. T. C. Cochrane, Mr. C. Clementi, Mr. J. H. Cox, Mr. Un Lai Chuen, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Cocker, Mr. Crovlie, Hon. W. Chatham, Mr. B. F. Craig, Captain and Mrs. Crichton, Mr. and Mrs. De Champeaux, Sir Paul Chater, Mr. A. H. Crook, Commander Dean and officers of the *Tamar*, Colonel Candy and officers of the 14th Bombay Light Infantry, Mr. and Mrs. Drayson, Inspector-General and Mrs. Drew, Commander and Mrs. Dawes, Commander Dawes and officers of the Naval Yard, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Danby, Mr. J. D. Danby, Mr. C. G. Danby, Mr. and Mrs. Denison, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Doberak, Mr. and Mrs. Haver Droeze, Major Daly, Mr. and Mrs. Trenchard Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, Miss Eyre, Miss Elwin, Mr. A. C. Franklin, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. and Mrs. Fung Chu Wa and sons, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Fullarton, Mr., Mrs. and Misses Sin Tak Fan, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Fraser, Major French, Miss Finny, Mr. Figg, Mr. A. Forbes, Captain and Mrs. Fitzwilliams, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. Gompertz, Mr. D. O. Gumprecht, Mr. and Mrs. Grace, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Goddard, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Warburton Grey, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Gordon, Major-General Sir William and Lady Gascoigne, Mr. and Mrs. Goetz, Mr. T. C. Grey, Mr. Goosmann, Mr. E. J. Grist, Mr. and Mrs. Gros, Mr. A. W. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Gedge, Mr. and Mrs. Gresson, Miss Gray, Major Hamilton, Rev. and Mrs. Hickling, Mr. and Mrs. Hancock, Mr. H. Hancock, M. and Mrs. Shelton Hooper, Dr. and Mrs. Harston, Mr. and Mrs. Ho Fook, Mr. and Mrs. B. Brotherton Harker, Mr. and Mrs. Hewett, Mrs. and Miss Hazeland, Mr. and Mrs. Hastings, Miss Hamper, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hazeland, Mr. and Miss Holmes, Mr. B. E. Hanson, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Hughes, Mr. F. Paget Hett, Captain and Mrs. Hewitt, Miss Hawker, Mr. W. S. Harrison, Mrs. and Miss Hance, Mr. A. Haupt, Mr. Hamman, Mr. A. H. Hollingsworth, Mr. C. H. P. Hay, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Dr. and Mrs. W. Hunter, Hon. and Mrs. Ho Yow, Mr. and Mrs. Ho Kum Tong, Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Right Rev. Bishop of Victoria and Mrs. Hoare, Mr. H. M. Hobbins, Mr. and Mrs. Hinds, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Humphreys, Mr. and Mrs. H. Humphreys, Mr. Heemskerk, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Irving, Captain P. Iren, Miss Jones, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Miss Johnstone, Mr. and Mrs. James, Mr. Jaffe, Dr. Jordan, Mr. R. F. Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. M. Johnston, Commander Jackson, Mr. J. H. Kemp, Mr. and Mrs. Kidd, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Kirino, Mr. Chau Siu Ki, Mr. and Mrs. Kadoorie, Dr. and Mrs. Koob, Miss Lawe, Dr. and Mrs. Laing,

Mr. H. W. Looker, Mr. B. Layton, Captain C. V. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. Leigh, Captain and Mrs. Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Lammert, Mr. G. P. Lammert, Mr. J. H. Lewis, Mr. D. Law, Miss Lazenby, Mr. A. R. Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. Leiria, Mr. Leung Pui Chi, Mr. J. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Lambelle, Mr. and Mrs. Langford, Commander and Mrs. Lockhart, Rev. P. De Maria, Mr. C. D. Melbourne, Hon. F. H. and Mrs. May, Mr. C. Mol. Messer, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Marty, Mr. and Mrs. F. Maitland, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Magalhaes, Mr. N. Mumford, Mr. C. Michaelau, Mr. A. C. McMillan, Captain R. Mitchell, Mr. L. Murphy, Mr. C. W. May, Mr. and Mrs. Moxon, Mr. H. N. Mody, Mr. W. Melchers, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Norcote, Mr. H. C. Nicolle, Mr. W. Newland, Mr. Wei On, Mr. E. Ormiston, Mr. and Mrs. Ough, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, Mr. E. Owen, Mr. and Mrs. Ollis, Dr. W. Pearse, Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Major and Mrs. Pritchard, Mr. and Mrs. Hutton Potts, Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. G. Piercy, Mr. and Mrs. Pemberton, Mr. and Mrs. S. Powell, Mr. E. C. Pontifex, Mr. H. E. Pollock, Captain and Mrs. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Pinckney, Miss Pitts, Commander and Mrs. Robinson, Mr. N. H. Rutherford, Major Radcliff and officers of the 33rd Burma Infantry, Miss Rannick, Mr. S. B. C. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Ram, Mr. C. H. Ros, Dr. A. Rennie, Captain and Mrs. Radcliffe, Miss E. Robinson, Hon. R. Murray Ramsey, Mr. and Mrs. R. Réau, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Romano, Mr. Rivera, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Sharp, Mr. P. W. Sergeant, Mr. and Mrs. A. Seth, Mr. A. G. Stokes, Dr. and Mrs. Swan, Mr. Stollard, Hon. R. Shewan, Dr. and Mrs. Stedman, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Slade, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Siebs, Mr. H. A. Siels, Mr. E. Siebs, Hon. G. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, Mr. W. Schmidt, Rev. and Mrs. Southam, Mr. F. Stodart, Mr. and Mrs. Surplice, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Smith, Mr. J. R. M. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Schellhass, Miss Skipton, Mr. and Mrs. Seaton, Mr. and Mrs. R. Sharp, Major and Mrs. Strickland, Mr. W. R. Seymour, Mr. and Mrs. Sayer, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Schubart, Mr. S. D. Setna, Mr. M. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Slade, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Shepherd, Hon. A. M. Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. Tooker, Mr. S. W. Tso, Mr. and Mrs. Ho Tung, Mr. and Mrs. Ho Wing, Mr. and Mrs. A. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Tones, Dr. J. C. Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. Tatcher, Mr. Basil Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Tomkins, Major the Hon. H. W. Trefusis, Captain and Mrs. Talloch, Mr. and Mrs. Tilden, Major and Mrs. Tudor, Chevalier and Mrs. Volpicelli, Mr. J. Y. V. Vernon, Mr. G. T. Veitch, Mr. Wise, Hon. and Mrs. Wei Yuk, Mr. A. J. Williams, Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, Mr. and Mrs. R. Walker, Mr. H. P. White, Mr. A. G. Wood, Dr. and Mrs. Bateson Wright, Mr. A. G. Ward, Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Mrs. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. D. Wood, Colonel Wright, Colonel and Mrs. Wyll, Colonel Wyll and officers of the Sherwood Foresters, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Woodcock, Mr. Wei Long Chan, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Watson, Colonel and Mrs. Webb, Mr. J. Whittall, Mr. Wo Hoi Chao, Mr. and Mrs. Yates, and Captain Yamashita.

THE MARRIAGE PRESENTS.

The collection of presents was of an almost unique character owing to the number of nationalities represented by the givers. The list was as follows:—

Colonel Arbuthnot, diamond star; Mrs. Arbuthnot, bracelet; Mrs. L. A. Arbuthnot, fan; Mr. Arbuthnot, diamond brooch; Miss F. and Miss Arbuthnot, enamel pendant; Messrs. A. and B. Arbuthnot, silver frame; Captain Arbuthnot, pendant; Mr. V. Ponsonby and Mr. Rothschild, fan; Sir E. and Lady Blake, diamond head ornament; Duchess of S. Albans, diamond brooch; Lady Louisa Egerton, brooch; Sir Charles Seely, pearl pendant; Mr. and Mrs. C. Seely, silver box; Major Carleton, pearl brooch; Mrs. Smith, opal and diamond ring; Lady Blake, diamond and pearl earring; Sir H. Blake, silver teatray; Lady Sybil Lascelles, gold cigarette-holder; Lady Louise Loder, silver kettle; Mr. and Mrs. Rennie, gold cigarette-case; Lord Osborne Beauclerk, Lady

Moyra Cavendish, Lady Kitty Somerset, and Lady A. Beauclerk, fitted dressing case; Chavalier and Mrs. Volpicelli, carved ivory vases; Hon. and Mrs. Atkinson, two silver fruit-dishes; Commodore and Mrs. Robinson, two silver vases; Mrs. Hardy, silver bowl; Mr. Yik Leung, Chinese shoes; Captain Nicholson, turquoise links and buttons; Mr. Dalrymple, silver muffineer; Sergeant Brazil, silver fish-slice and fork; Sir John Keane, four silver bowls; Inspector and Mrs. Gidley, brass tray; Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, Chinese tray; Mr. Clementi, Chinese embroidery; Capt. and Mrs. Radcliffe, gold bracelet; Colonel Brown, blackwood table; Lady Sybil Smith, lace; Mr. and Mrs. Hyndman Jones, silver box; Mr. Babington, silver glass; Mr. Villiers Stuart, embroidered blotter; Misses Jean Robertson, Iris May, and Margaret Goodman, Japanese paper cutters; Hon. Gershom Stewart and Mr. Murray Stewart, silver toilet set; Mr. and Mrs. James, set of Siamese buttons; Hon. and Mrs. May, blackwood tray and silver liqueur glasses; Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Smyth, gold bracelet; Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, two gold bracelets; Vice-Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, Satsuma vases; Admiral and Mrs. Evans, silver bowl; Miss Threin and Miss E. Porter, four silver spoons; Mrs. Hastings, Kipling's works; Sir Henry and Lady Berkeley, silver bowl; Mr. and Mrs. Gedge, Chinese weapons; Mr. and Mrs. Tooker, tea cosy and drawn work tea cloth; Inspector Gourlay, pair silver candlesticks; Mr. Gresson, pair silver candlesticks; Mr. Iso, ivory box; Mr. and Mrs. Sharp, blackwood lamp-stand; Mrs. Haver Droeze, Japanese cloisonné vases; Mr. Wei Long Shan, pair silver vases; Mr. Wei On, enamelled bronze vases; Mr. Wei Wah Leen, vases and urn of silver filigree; Mr. Ali Kong, silver ornament; Colonel and Mrs. Lambkin, pair Satsuma vases; Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, two bronze Japanese lamps; Mrs. R. de la Poer, Venetian lace fan; Hon. Mrs. de la Poer, silver pincushion; Mr. A. G. Wood, carved ivory and embroidered fan; Miss B. Cavendish, bookmarker; Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Mitchell, dozen silver men's holders; Mr. Basil Taylor, books; Mr. Chan A Fook, Chinese embroidery; Mr. Sin Tak Fan, two rolls of silk; Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Blake, pair silver vases; Mr. Ah Yut, two jade bracelet; Major and Mrs. Pritchard, cut glass and silver scent bottle; Mr. and Mrs. Ho Fook, two gold bangles; Mr. and Mrs. Ho Kom Tong, Satsuma vases; Sir William and Lady Godman, silver bowl and spoon; Hon. and Mrs. Wei Yuk, clock; Mesdames Birdwood, Webb, Caulfield, Strickland, Crichton, Bunney, Bryan, Benson, Boyd, Parker, Ayerst, Ramsay, Walker, and Wyll, inlaid Japanese screen; Mr. and Mrs. Ho Tung, pearl and jade earrings; Mr. and Mrs. Ho Wing, silver waist-bag; Mr. A. C. McMillan, bronze and silver vases; Mr. and Mrs. H. Humphreys, silver dish; Mr. Hu Shun Chuen, silver bowl; Mr. Chau Siu Ki, pair silver vases; Major the Hon. H. W. Trefusis, Thackeray's works; Mr. Lau Chu Pak, silk embroidered table cloth; Mr. Un Lai Chuen, silver card tray; Mr. Leung Pui Chi, roll of pink silk; Mr. and Mrs. Seth, silver and pearl shell fruit-stand; Major and Mrs. Tudor, pair silver vases; Mr. Setna, silver inkstand; C. M. S. friends, Satsuma bowl; Hon. and Mrs. Ho Yow, gold bracelet and embroidered bedcloth; Mr. and Mrs. Leiria, half-dozen silver finger bowls; Mr. and Mrs. Romano, half-dozen silver fish-knives and forks; Mrs. Li Wai Ching, two pieces of Chinese embroidery; Mr. C. V. Lloyd, silk crepe embroidered cloth; Civil Servants of Hongkong, Japanese silver bowl and gold lacquered tray; Major and Mrs. Chapman, four silver vases; Wong Hing, silver box; Messrs. A. S. Anton, G. Murray Bain, G. Balloch, J. Barton, Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. C. P. Chater, T. W. Cocker, W. A. Cruickshank, E. Deacon, A. Denison, M. G. Gray, B. E. Hanson, Dr. G. M. Harston, Messrs. J. S. Harston, E. A. Hewett, T. F. Hough, W. H. Howard, H. Hunter, B. Layton, R. K. Leigh, J. H. Lewis, H. W. Looker, A. R. Lowe, Capt. F. W. Lyons, Messrs. C. A. D. Melbourne, H. N. Mody, H. C. Nicolle, T. Morgan Phillips, Major Radcliff, Mr. E. A. Ram, Dr. A. Rennie, Hon. Murray Ramsey, Mr. W. J. Saunders, Hon. R. Shewan, Mr. H. W. Slade, Dr. F. O. Stedman, Hon. G. Stewart, Messrs. M. Stewart, A.

Turner, G. Veitch, J. Y. V. Vernon, A. G. Wise, P. P. J. Wodehouse, and J. Woodgates, sapphire and diamond bracelet; Mr. R. F. Johnston, three pieces Siamese silk and Giles's dictionary; Mrs. E. Robinson, China dish; Mr. and Mrs. Woodcock, silver vase; Mr. and Mrs. Wong Kam Fuk, silver fruit-dish; Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Humphreys, four silver fruit spoons; Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, bronze and silver vases; Sir Paul Chater, diamond pendant; Mr. Mody, diamond crescent; Mr. and Mrs. Vernon, silver and enamelled tray; Mr. Hart Buck, half-dozen silver napkin rings; Mr. and Mrs. Lo Chneng Shiu, pair silver candlesticks; Mr. Au Fung Chi, fan; Lord and Lady Oranmore, case of silver tea-knives; Mr. W. n, embroidered shawl; Major Hamilton, two silver frames; Mr. and Mrs. Hong Kam Sing, silver mirror; Lady Moyra Cavendish, ring; Mr. Fung Wa Chun, portière Japanese embroidery; Committee of the Tung Wa Hospital and Po Leung Kuk, silver tea-set, silver tray, and silver flower-stand; Kaifongs (committees) Second and Third Streets, embroidered bed spread and inlaid and embroidered fire-screen; Mr. Rumjahn, silver box; Mr. and Mrs. Siebs, dozen silver finger-bowls; Bishop of Victoria and Mrs. Hoare, the Temple Bible; Mr. and Mrs. Fung Shu Wah, gold and jade bracelet; Master Fung Hsin Yun, and Master Fung Hsin Chung, five gold bangles; Mr. and Mrs. Lo Cheung Ip, pair silver frames; Mr. Leung Shai Kong, travelling clock; Mrs. Leigh, book; Mr. H. E. Pollock, Japanese lacquered picture; Mr. and Mrs. Chao Leep Chee, pair China vases; Messrs. Bruce Shepherd, Li Tak Yung, Ng Shiu Ling, G. H. Wakeman, C. Kent, Ho Yu Leung, and Le Ming Po, of the Land Office, silver hand-glass; Mr. S. J. R. M. Smith, travelling clock; Superiress, Italian Convent, lace handkerchiefs; Mr. C. H. Ross, silver box; Mr. Chan Un Man, embroidered fan and handkerchief; Mr. A. G. Ward, set of lacquered tables; Mr. and Mrs. Brotherton Harker, silver umbrella handle; Mr. and Mrs. Bowdler, silver toilet set; Mr. Pun Lan Sz, two Chinese silk scrolls; Mrs. Kang Yu Wei, four worked panels and two pairs silver vases; Major French, silver dragon; Mr. and Mrs. Elliot, tea set; Maharajah of Scindhia of Gwalior, silver scent spray, muslin and gold embroidery; Superiress of French Convent, lace handkerchief and tie; Mr. and Mrs. Shi Chan Kwong, 4 silver photo-frames; Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Marty, flowers; Mr. Carl Michelau, flowers; Mr. Goosmann, flowers; Mr. G. Brusse, flowers; Mr. Hamman, flowers; Mr. and Mrs. H. Droeze, flowers; Mr. Tong Lai Chün, silver vase; Mr. and Mrs. Lix n, Japanese silver and bronze vase, 3 pieces of embroidery; Mr. and Mrs. Hans Schubart, flowers; Mr. D. E. Law, bronze and silver vase; Mr. J. Lee, silver claret jug; Mr. Mee Cheung, panorama photo; Mr. Li Ching Chai, white feather fan; Mr. Tseung Sz Kai, silver flask; Messrs. Bingay, Caulfield and Gastell, silver inkpot; Mrs. Bryan, cartridge pencil case; Mr. U Hoi Chan, mirror and gold chain.

Captain and Mrs. Arbuthnot left on Thursday on the *Stanley* for a cruise on the West River calling at Macao on the way. H. E. the Governor and Lady Blake were among those who saw the young couple off at Blake Pier. Captain Robinson is in command of the *Stanley*, and will do all the piloting himself.

A medical man says it is a wonder that more European women do not contract plague than actually do. European ladies invite contagion, he says, by wearing long dresses which sweep the street and raise up dust that in all probability contains plague germs. When will they learn to wear short, sensible walking-skirts and to leave off those bacilli-breeders—openwork stockings?

According to a despatch to the *Osaka Asahi*, the Chinese Resident Minister in Tibet telegraphed to Peking early last month that 143 men, apparently Russian engineer troops, had entered the eastern part of Tibet. They are, he reports, making preparations to settle themselves there permanently, and are surveying the adjacent places. The inhabitants are stated to be much alarmed.

HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

From Sunday, 7th inst., at noon, till Saturday, 13th inst., at noon, 125 cases of bubonic plague were notified to the authorities, and of this total 23 were European, 2 Japanese, 5 Indian, and 96 Chinese. It is thus apparent that for some reason Japanese and Indians, so far as the period under review is concerned, are considerably less attacked by the disease than Europeans, who were attacked with alarming suddenness. Fortunately the epidemic was not of a virulent character, the only fatal case being that of Mr. A. Pasquet, the Frenchman who was removed during the week from Canton to the Plague Hospital at Kennedytown for treatment. He died on Saturday morning, and was interred yesterday at Happy Valley. The latest patient is Mr. A. J. Mackie (23), demarcation officer of the Land Court, who was removed from No. 5, Caine Road, in his case also the attack is believed to be mild one. Lieutenant Milward, Sherwood Foresters, has been discharged from hospital, and we understand that all the other Europeans are making satisfactory progress. Without being too sanguine, it may be safely assumed that the critical period of the epidemic this year has been passed. Since Thursday the daily returns show a steady fall in the number of notified cases; the lowest figure was recorded on Saturday last, when only ten cases, one that of Mr. Mackie, one Indian and eight Chinese were reported.

THE KWANGSI FAMINE.

SOME STRIKING EVIDENCE.

We had recently before us the account given by Mr. C. Clementi to the Kwangsi Famine Relief Committee in Hongkong on the 20th ult. By the courtesy of the Hon. Gershom Stewart, we have been allowed to see certain notes which he made during his trip into Kwangsi and to make a few extracts from them. A digest of these we give below.

On arrival at Wuchow it was found that the Viceroy of Yunnan and the Governor of Kwangsi had obtained permission from the Indo-Chinese government to get rice free of duty across the Tonkin border for use on the western side of Kwangsi. But this rice only served to relieve the country some distance to the west of Nanning, while the Canton rice was only being applied to the east of Nanning, which in consequence was in a very bad position. It was immediately arranged, after an interview with the Kwangsi Governor, to send rice up to Nanning and certain other places named by the Governor as particularly in need of food. The Governor, by the way, seems to have been a very favourable example of a Chinese official, for his manner was grave but kindly, and he showed no trace of arrogance such as many Chinese officials display toward foreigners.

At Kweiping an endeavour was made to find out the amount of rice available from Chinese sources until the new crop was due, in about six weeks' time. Happily there was every appearance of a good crop. At this place ample evidence was forthcoming of a dire state of destitution prevailing, chiefly among the country folk, people coming in from the outlying villages in thousands on relief days. The Cantonese merchants were making distributions every third day to the men and the Kweiping missionaries every third day to the women and children. Numerous examples of acutest misery were to be seen. Mr. Stewart was struck with the large proportion of old and feeble-looking women among the recipients of relief. No doubt their men folk had gone elsewhere to seek employment and left them without support. Round the walls of Kweiping temporary encampments were to be seen, composed apparently of country people who had come in for food and having nothing to go back to had lingered on as best they could. In an encampment in one of the watch-towers on the wall a leper was lying on the floor with about 30 or 40 people of various ages and both sexes all round. Such a thing is entirely opposed, of course, to all Chinese ideas, and shows how physical dejection had produced a breakdown of moral sentiment. One sight Mr. Stewart describes as impressing him very much was

that of a most awful-looking human being with thick black matted hair and with only a few rags on his almost naked body, which was simply skin and bone. He was hastening away with something in his hands, chased by a man, apparently a hawker from whom he had stolen, who ran shouting after him. The wretch disappeared round a street corner like a ghoul and, it is to be hoped, escaped.

Good work was being done at Kweishen by Messrs. Fletcher and Schumaker in a country where distress was very acute. Distributions were made at necessitous villages, an escort of soldiers guarding the distributor. It was arranged that small quantities of rice should be sent to certain centres where relief was necessary and no European was available to superintend. This was to be distributed by a committee of gentry, proclamations being posted to the effect that so much rice had been sent up for distribution by the Hongkong Fund. Thus there would be a check on the conduct of the committees. As the Kweishen magistrate, though most cordial in his manner and well acquainted with European ways, has a great reputation for severity the local gentry were not likely to risk an interview with him. It is evident, Mr. Stewart remarks, that had the rice been sent up for distribution several months ago it would have been received with even more avidity than it was when he was at Kweishen. The distress was then at its height, when the weather was cold and severe and many had died before relief came. Sales of women and children had been going on on a large scale. At the time of our informant's visit maize and vegetables were on sale in the shops, which, coupled with sales of cheap rice by Canton benevolent societies, was of assistance to those with a little money. The Kwong Yan Shin Tong was making a daily free distribution of rice, the crush at the distributions being great; about 5,000 people receive 4 oz. of rice-gruel each. But there was a display of patient good-temper and very little pushing. One man was seen lying on his back dead with his portion of rice untouched in a bowl beside him. Dead bodies were frequently to be seen in the villages around.

That the Chinese themselves have been doing a lot of relief work is clear. Mr. Stewart mentions that the Shut Shin Tong had made the following sales of cheap rice:—

1st day 4th moon to Wuchow	2,000 piculs
7th " Tang Yuen	3,600 "
11th " Wuchow	2,200 "
18th " Yung Hui	4,000 "
21st " Yung Hui	2,000 "
24th " Kweiping	2,200 "
27th " Kweiping	1,200 "

They were proposing to send 22,000 piculs more rice for cheap sale. The society bore all freight and other charges, while all customs duties, etc., were waived. Similarly the Kwang Yan Shin Tong had sent 12,000 piculs to Kwai Yuen, 3,000 to Kweiping, 3,000 to Kong How, and 2,000 to Wuchow, partly for free distribution and partly for cheap sale. The latter society also sent up as many as 3,000,000 biscuits.

Altogether Canton benevolent societies have been doing most excellent work, though unfortunately quite unequal to the necessities of the situation. It appears that the societies start operations when on a large scale by borrowing from the Canton Government, the money to be gradually paid back. Where possible they distribute rice free, but cheap sales are more common.

It would save the country people a lot of travel, Mr. Stewart says, if it could be arranged to distribute in several centres at once, but there is not enough foreign help available. The missionaries were doing excellent work, but there were too few of them and the lay distributors were still fewer. At Kweiping the system adopted was to give out tickets, each representing one measure (about 1 lb.) of rice. People got one or two tickets at the discretion of the distributor. As a rule a child got one ticket and an adult two. At the end of a distribution in which Mr. Stewart took part over 18,000 tickets had been given out, representing 10,000 to 12,000 persons relieved. The Canton merchants were distributing to the men every third day and had about the same number of recipients. According to the District Magistrate the Kweiping district had

about 100,000 destitute people beyond those being relieved—who numbered about 20,000.

An extraordinary story is reported from Kweishen. One of the European distributors was walking with the mandarin in his garden, when they saw some of the Yamen coolies cooking some meat. The mandarin asked them what they were eating, to which they replied: "Liver from the execution ground." An execution had taken place there an hour ago—and yet these coolies were not starving people! The mandarin simply shrugged his shoulders and said: "What a dirty thing to eat."

Incidentally Mr. Stewart came in contact with some of the troops engaged in the pacification of Kwangsi, travelling up from Wuchow to Kong How in a launch conveying Hunanese braves bound for Lauchow as part of a scheme for combined operations against brigands.

The Kweishen magistrate is recorded to have expressed anxiety that Britain should send a Consul to Nanning, and it must be admitted that such a step is necessary. The French Consul has just gone there from Lungchow and the British-built French gunboat *Argus* was met on the way up to Nanning.

NEW TUNG WA HOSPITAL
BRANCH.

OPENING CEREMONY.

H. E. the Governor, Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., on the 6th inst., performed the ceremony of formally opening the plague branch at Kennedytown of the Tung Wa Hospital, the foundation-stone of which he laid on 18th November, 1901. The institution is the practical outcome of the generosity of the leading section of the Chinese community, whose sympathies again and again have been stirred by the sufferings of their poorer brethren when stricken by disease. The alleviation of those sufferings, so far as it lay within the power of man and money to accomplish, they made their task, and how well they have discharged that task the building at Kennedytown bears mute but impressive testimony. Standing on an eminence, it presents a handsome appearance and commands a striking *coup d'œil* in the harbour stretching out in front. It is in the Italian Renaissance style of architecture, and of two stories throughout. From the main entrance, which opens into the reception-room, corridors lead to the three ward pavilions constituting the principal part of the building. On the right and left of the main entrance are the two administration blocks, containing doctors' rooms, dispensaries, offices, and stores on the ground floor, and nurses' dormitories on the upper flat. In each of the pavilions there are twenty beds—ten on each floor—so that accommodation is given for sixty patients altogether; besides these, however, the convalescent ward contains eight beds, bringing the total number up to sixty-eight beds. The mortuary is to the south of the main buildings and connected with the wards by a covered way. On the same side are the kitchens, wash-house, servants' quarters, etc. The interior of the hospital is executed on modern principles, and plastered with Keene's cement; all corners in rooms are rounded, so that dust will not readily accumulate and, if it does gather, can be easily removed. The ventilation, lighting, and sanitary arrangements are of the most approved kind. Present-day requirements are met by the structural separation of the wards from the lavatories by means of a passage, as well as in other minor respects. Being practically open on all sides, the site is eminently suited for an hospital, and offers scope for a considerable extension of the institution should it be necessary or desirable. The hospital, it may be added, is to be devoted entirely to the reception of Chinese patients, who will have their choice of treatment by Western or by Eastern methods. The architect of the building is Mr. B. Brotherton Harker, A.M.I.C.E., Queen's Road Central, who has gained great praise on all hands for his work. It may be mentioned that in Vol. II of the *Academy of Architecture* there appears a sketch of the Tung Wa as being a good example of a hospital built on modern lines.

Amongst those present at Saturday's function were the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Hon.

Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Dr. J. C. Thomson, Dr. J. McL. Gibson, Capt. J. B. Arbuthnot, M.V.O. (A.D.C. to His Excellency), and Messrs. A. Mol. Messer, B. B. Harker (architect of the hospital), A. Bumjahn, Tung Lau Kuk (chairman of the Tung Wa Hospital), Fung Wa Chun, Lau Chu Pak, Pan Chi Wan, Li Sui Ting, Tung Pan Sang, Yeung Wan Kui, Yeung Pui San, Chan Chih Wan, and other representative Chinese gentlemen.

Addressing His Excellency, Mr. LAU CHU PAK said—Your Excellency, in the name and on behalf of the directors of the Tung Wa Hospital, I have great pleasure in requesting you to declare open this plague hospital, which is to be conducted as a branch of the existing Tung Wa Hospital. It is with special satisfaction that I do this in view of the circumstance that it was your Excellency who laid the foundation-stone of this building on 18th November, 1901, which was designed by Mr. Harker, and also illustrated in the *Academy of Architecture*, vol. 22. It has, for a period of many years, been the ambition of the Chinese community to possess a building such as this where Chinese cases of infectious disease may be treated by Chinese physicians. During previous epidemics, temporary hospitals have been in use for this purpose, but it has, throughout, been looked forward to, that a permanent Chinese Infectious Diseases Hospital would be erected. Accordingly, after your Excellency's arrival in the Colony, these proposals were submitted to you, and your hearty sympathy with the scheme has secured the fulfilment of those desires and aspirations. The funds for the erection and the equipment of the institution have been subscribed by the Chinese and European communities, and I have no doubt that the amount necessary for its maintenance, year by year, will be as willingly subscribed. It is proposed, as I have already indicated, that this institution shall be carried on as a branch and extension of the existing Tung Wa Hospital and on precisely similar lines, all the patients admitted being given the option of treatment by Chinese or Western methods. As is unfortunately too apparent, the buildings here are not quite complete, but your Excellency has been good enough to consent to a proposal that for the time being, the kitchen, laundry and mortuary of the Government Hospital, adjoining this, may be used conjointly by the two institutions and thus these buildings may take their share in meeting the present emergency created by the prevalence of plague in the Colony. Before another epidemic season comes I hope that the whole of our proposals for this Hospital may be rounded off and completed. The urgency of the present situation has made it impossible for the Directors to arrange as they should have liked to for the opening ceremony. I must, therefore, ask your Excellency to use a very ordinary iron key to open the hospital. The Directors will later on forward to you as a memento of this interesting occasion the key which ought to have been ready for your Excellency's use to-day. With these few words, your Excellency, I have much pleasure, in the name of and on behalf of the Tung Wa Hospital, to request you to declare this building open. (Applause.)

HIS EXCELLENCY said—Mr. Lau Chu Pak and gentlemen, I have come here, very readily, and with great pleasure, to assist you in the opening of this most necessary addition to the Tung Wa Hospital, for it is not one day too soon that this opening has taken place. I have just been round the whole of the adjoining hospital and I find there that the wards are every one of them fully occupied. I earnestly hope that these wards may only be necessary for the purpose of relieving what is undoubtedly a congestion in the other hospital at present, and that the numbers in the two hospitals may not be increased in the immediate future. I take an opportunity such as this as a means possibly of conveying observations to the public that are not easily conveyed otherwise. As some of you are aware, assisted by Mr. Fung Wa Chun and other gentlemen, and heartily assisted by the medical officers, not alone the Civil Medical Officer, Dr. Atkinson, but also Dr. Pearce, I have been personally conducting a very interesting experiment for the last three months. That experiment was really for the purpose of seeing how far we could possibly get the Chinese people of the city to themselves adopt the necessary means of sanitation, and

how we could bring these means within the power of every householder and every tenant so that they could be fairly carried out, thus assisting us to secure the safety of the people. Well, gentlemen, I have nothing to complain of. I had Second and Third Streets handed over to me by permission of the Sanitary Board, because I asked them to let me have the worst and poorest district in the town, and I found that the people, once they understood what was required, came forward at once. They are cleaning their houses and taking advantage of the opportunities given them to wash themselves and to wash their clothing and to build their bed-boards. You are aware that within a short time it has been discovered that the plague bacillus exists in fowls and might possibly exist in fowls sold in the markets, and consequently I have been impressing upon the people the desirability of thoroughly cooking their food, and the danger of eating half-cooked food. To you who are present, it is hardly necessary for me to say this, but I am speaking to other people outside who may possibly read what I am now saying. I have seen people of the poorer classes having their meals in the early morning, and they had not cooked the interior portions of the chickens, or at least properly cooked them. We have there a possible means of the propagation of plague independent of dirt or darkness. No doubt, if houses are properly constructed, if we could secure the blessings of a not overcrowded city and enable the people to live in such surroundings and with such an amount of sunlight and air as will enable them to resist the attacks of disease, then we may hope for a very great diminution in this plague epidemic. But we must remember that in seeking for the cause of the epidemic we are always likely to seize upon one or two salient points, and to forget that there are other doors by which the disease may enter, and which it is equally necessary for us to close by proper precautions if we can use them. I found on having examined insects in these houses by Dr. Hunter, especially in Sheng Pui lane, which I was obliged to clear out on account of the number of cases, that these insects, bugs and spiders, which were sent to Dr. Hunter, had the plague bacillus in them. I have myself written a notice which I have sent to the Registrar-General's office to be printed in Chinese, bringing these simple facts before the people, and impressing upon them the absolute necessity of cleansing their houses and boiling their bed-boards to get rid of these bugs and spiders, which are a potent means of spreading plague. Now, gentlemen, I know the difficulties which have faced you in building this fine hospital, and in looking back over the time that has elapsed since I laid the foundation-stone I remember, among all others who deserve credit for this excellent work—and there are many whom I could name—that there is one whose name you will agree with me stands out very prominently, and that is Mr. Fung Wa Chun, whose persistence and energy and untiring determination to push forward the hospital have had a great deal to do with the fact that it is to-day ready for relieving the congestion at Kennedytown and that the Chinese people are in the proud position of being able to boast that they have in addition to the Tung Wa hospital, this fine one in Kennedytown. I do not like to say anything as to the future, but from the motion passed by the Sanitary Board the other day, we may hope to have local hospitals in various parts of the city before next year, in the event of another outbreak of plague. This matter was agitated for some three years ago, and arguments against it were put forward by people, who possibly did not closely study the question. They considered that they would assist in the spread of the disease. Local hospitals have been tried in India, and have not been found to spread disease. I have tried a little local hospital in Third Street and I found that the people unfortunately stricken with plague, instead of being killed by terror at the long journey to Kennedytown, have cheerfully gone into the local hospital. Some have recovered, some have died, but we have no evidence that the hospital has had the effect of spreading the plague in its vicinity. It is a foolish thing to prophesy, but I hope and believe we have passed the worst of

it for this year. I have a number of statistics showing the state of the epidemic since the 7th of February, and the figures are interesting showing as they do a steady decrease in the percentage of deaths. I have taken periods of four weeks from that date when about 12 cases occurred. In the first four weeks, 100 per cent. of those attacked died, that is, every human being who contracted the disease died; in the next four weeks there were 92 cases and 94 per cent. died; in the third four weeks, there were 221 cases and 91 per cent. died. In the last four weeks, there were 446 cases, and 87½ per cent. died. Last week, there were 123 cases and of these 84 per cent. died; so you see there has been a steady diminution in the virulence of the disease. Within the last three weeks ending May 16th, there were 117 cases and in the next week there were 136 cases. Last week, it had fallen to 123, and let us hope that this week we will find that the fall will continue. There were, I believe, only 13 cases yesterday. In that case we may look to the end of the epidemic I hope by the end of July. It is necessary that we should have the relief that can be given by these wards, and no institution has been opened at a more opportune moment than this one. I have nothing more to say except to obey the request to declare this hospital open, which I do with every good wish that in the future it may fully carry out the beneficent use for which it has been designed. (Applause.)

His Excellency then opened the door of the hospital, which is now ready for the reception and treatment of patients. Success to the institution was afterwards toasted.

BACTERIOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT IN 1902.

The report of Dr. W. Hunter, Government Bacteriologist, for 1902 is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following extracts:—

I arrived in the Colony from London on the 27th February, 1902. As there was no Bacteriological Laboratory in the Colony, and no suitable place for the immediate establishment of such, the Principal Civil Medical Officer proposed that I should be allowed to establish, temporarily, a Laboratory in the Kennedy Town Infectious Diseases Hospital. This suggestion I gladly availed myself of, and with the assistance of Dr. Thomson, the Medical Officer in charge of that Institution, I was able to obtain part of the office and dispensary of the Hospital for laboratory accommodation.

A serious drawback to the immediate commencement of my duties was occasioned by the loss, through shipwreck, of the whole of my bacteriological apparatus shortly after it had left London. The Crown Agents for the Colonies were instructed to re-order the apparatus with the least possible delay, but notwithstanding all their efforts, the whole of the apparatus for the equipment of a Bacteriological Laboratory did not arrive in Hongkong until the end of June, 1902, that is to say, about four months after my arrival in the Colony.

In the month of March, the Principal Civil Medical Officer requested that the work at the Government Public Mortuary should be undertaken by me. To this proposal I gladly assented, as much of the work there was of a bacteriological nature, e.g., the examination of cases of plague and cholera. I commenced my duties at the Mortuary on the 26th March, 1902.

Immediately on commencing my duties at the Public Mortuary, a regular system of post-mortem and bacteriological examinations on rats was instituted. The services of four Japanese medical men were obtained in May for this particular work, and all rats found dead or alive in the Colony were regularly examined for plague by these gentlemen, who worked under my direction.

On the 13th of October, 1902, these Japanese doctors returned to Japan, and the services of three qualified Chinese doctors were obtained. Accordingly on the 14th of October, 1902, Drs. Ho Ko Tsun, Lee Yin Sze, and Chan Fai Kwong, each of whom had been trained in the Hongkong College of Medicine for Chinese, commenced their duties as assistants in the Bacteriological Department. Dr. Ho Ko Tsun was appointed Laboratory Assistant, his duties being mainly to assist me with

routine pathological and bacteriological work, while Drs. Lee Yin Sze and Chan Fai Kwong were appointed Bacteriological Assistants, and assisted me in the routine examination of rats sent to the Public Mortuary. I take the opportunity at this point of bearing testimony to the excellent services which have been rendered by these qualified Chinese doctors. I found them well trained and anxious at all times to take a thorough grasp of the opportunities vouchsafed to them of gaining a knowledge of Pathology. They grasped the somewhat delicate technique for bacteriological work with wonderful rapidity, and I have repeatedly noted the care which they bestowed on the systematic examination of enormous numbers of rats.

During the year, 2,816 human bodies were examined at the Public Mortuary. These figures, I understand, represent a number of post-mortems larger than in any previous year since the Institution was established. Further, I am sure that these figures are probably unique. I know of no institution where, given suitable accommodation, apparatus, and assistance, greater scope would be afforded for pathological and bacteriological research. In addition to the routine post-mortem work, there have been 117,839 rats examined bacteriologically, approximately 400 rats examined daily during the year. Of these 2,105 were found to be infected with plague.

During the months of May, June and July, Professor Simpson and I carried out a series of very extensive researches in regard to the possibility of producing plague in all lower animals more particularly in those animals which are closely associated with man—calves, sheep, goats, pigs, fowls, etc. The results, notwithstanding the conditions under which the experiments were performed, were of a highly satisfactory nature, and should set at rest much of the hitherto varied discussion on the subject. The details of these experiments and the interpretation of the results will of course be fully dealt with by Professor Simpson in his report. Had it not been for the great assistance rendered by the Principal Civil Medical Officer and the Government Analyst in supplying certain apparatus, the research could not have been carried out. During the summer a series of pathological and bacteriological examinations were made at the Dairy Farm, Pokfulam, and the Kennedy Town slaughter-houses, on cattle suffering from what appeared to me to be a form of Septicæmia Hæmorrhagica.

What has been felt during the past year is the want of a properly equipped and centrally situated Bacteriological Institute. As already mentioned, the Medical Department has allowed me part of the office and the dispensary in Kennedy Town Hospital. Any bacteriological research which one may propose to undertake has to be done there, and this Hospital can be shown to be a most inconvenient place for carrying out bacteriological work. In the first place, there is no accommodation, and secondly it is very inaccessible owing to its distance from the other branches of the Department, namely, the Vaccine Institute and the Public Mortuary. It has been a matter of regret that, owing to these circumstances, the preparation of plague vaccine and serum, &c., has been quite out of the question. At the present time, however, I am glad to be in a position to state that a convenient site has been obtained for a Bacteriological Institute. Its completion is now only a matter of time.

The P. & O. Company send us the following report by Commander C. W. Bennett of the s.s. *Ceylon*, which arrived on the 11th inst., concerning a submerged wreck seen on the voyage of the *Ceylon* from Singapore:—I have to report that, at 8.7 p.m. on the 9th inst., in Lat. 14.20 N. Long. 112.45 E., we passed a submerged wreck, with one mast, and rigging attached, standing upright, about 10 feet above the water. This may probably be the same wreck that Capt. Owen of the s.s. *Dragoman* reported as having passed on the 30th March, 1902. It is directly in the track of ships using the main route between Singapore and Hongkong. Had we passed it in the daytime I would have stopped the ship, lowered a boat and discovered what sort of vessel it was.

A CHINESE CLAN-FIGHT.

Two young Hongkong men who at the end of last week went on a trip up the Pearl River above Canton found themselves in the unique but rather perilous position of being embroiled in a Chinese clan-fight and were forced to make haste out of the countryside. They sailed from Hongkong on the *Honam* and arriving at Canton in the evening took a paddle-junk up the river to the village of Sapohing, Saichew prefecture, which was reached early on the following morning. On arrival at Sapohing they discovered that a state of war existed between that village and the neighbouring village of Tancho.

These places are situated about 50 miles above Canton. The origin of the trouble is thus explained. A young man from Sapohing made a visit one evening to the neighbouring village of Tancho, where he indulged in gambling at the fantan-tables and lost money. But instead of losing his cash with the good grace of a veteran gambler he became nasty, accused the master of the place of cheating and snatched some money from the table. Thereupon the master hit him on the face and he retaliated in like fashion. There the matter appeared to have been ended. The young man went back to his own village that night. But it seems that the affair rankled in his mind, for he informed the elders that he had suffered an insult and demanded that they, the Chun clan, should take action towards getting an apology from the others, the Cheah clan. The elders after consultation among themselves went over to the Cheah village and insisted upon an apology being tendered. To this the Cheah elders assented readily, and paid the complainant some \$2 or \$3 dollars by way of compensation and also supplied him with some medicinal balls with which to treat the injuries he had got on the face.

This was not considered by him, however, to be sufficient reparation. Seeing that his own village elders would not support him in any further action he went to another village of the Chuns, inflamed the people there with a recitation of his wrongs, and incited them to take summary revenge upon the Cheahs. Accordingly some 40 of the villagers next day set out for the Cheah village, armed with Mauser rifles. They took up a position on a hillock behind the village and fired 300 or 400 shots into the ancestral hall. Then the Cheah villagers got infuriated over the outrage and demanded an apology from the invaders. The Chuns replied that they would fight the quarrel out.

That was the stage at which matters stood when the two Hongkong gentlemen got there. The elders of the villages then agreed that there should be peace, and an armistice was drawn up in accordance with the understanding arrived at and was signed with the ancestral chop of each of the contracting parties. This agreement the Chuns accepted in all good faith and they went back to their village and made merry over the event with a feast of cakes, sweetmeats and samson. They put away their arms, knocked down the defences that had been hastily erected to repel the invaders and were at the height of their merry-making when without any warning a large force of men from the Cheah village fell upon them. The attacking party numbered some 600 men—400 with Mausers and 200 with spears. Of course the Chun village was entirely unprepared for the attack. The aggressors made an entrance into the village and carried all before them. They sacked 17 houses. First of all they directed their attention to the looting of a rice-shop; from it they carried away between 400 and 500 piculs of rice, three cows, half-a-dozen pigs, and they killed seven or eight more pigs which they were unable to take with them. Also they shot dead an old woman 60 years of age. The doings of the invaders naturally caused the greatest possible alarm in the village. All the inhabitants were called to arms, doors and gateways were barricaded, and for half-an-hour or so there was a sharp exchange of fire.

When the attack first began the women of the village sought safety in flight. The two daughters of the "squire" of the village tried to effect their escape by running into the adjacent

paddy-fields but they were intercepted by the Cheah men and stripped of their clothing and jewelry. Their cries attracted the attention of the Chuns, who went to their rescue and beat off the enemy. Thereafter the Chuns returned home but so great was their fear of a night attack that all the women and children went to seek protection in the neighbouring friendly villages leaving only the fighting men in the place. A council of war was called and it was resolved that as the Cheahs had broken the peace contract the ten Chun clans should be asked to assist in the punishment of the aggressors. The clans responded readily to the invitation and late that night began to pour into the village armed with barbed wires, bamboo poles, spears, bows and arrows, and Mauser rifles. Barricades were erected round the town; cannon—six and ten-pounders—were placed in position for defence and provisions were laid in.

So serious had the situation become that next day the Hongkong visitors left the village at the urgent request of the elders, who considered that their presence might precipitate matters and infuriate still further the attacking party. Accordingly they came down the river to Canton on an armed boat belonging to the village.

The Chun people have informed the authorities at Canton of the doings of the Cheahs and how they broke faith with them. It is not yet known how the trouble ended, but our informants say that the Chuns mean to fight the affair to a finish. They look lightly upon the original cause of the fracas but are determined to take ample revenge for the deadly disgrace offered to the two ladies who were stripped in the paddy-fields.

MURDER BY A FOREIGNER IN SHANGHAI.

People recently arrived from Shanghai inform us, says our contemporary *O Porvir*, that the lamentable case of P. A. Souza, clerk of the Gas Co., Shanghai, was not exactly what it was represented to be by the *North China Daily News*, and that there were many extenuating circumstances on behalf of the accused. Souza was coming home as usual when he met with four Chinamen, who provoked him, knocked off his hat, and assaulted him, and seeing that he was completely unarmed and could not defend himself against his assailants he ran into the house with the intention of securing a cane for his defence, being closely followed by them. As soon as the house was reached they broke one window, on which Souza became more excited, and, finding a carving knife on the table, got hold of it and came out to meet his assailants, who, seeing him armed with a knife, tried to run away. As Souza is rather heavy and could not run fast, he could only follow one of them, at whom he threw the knife; as there was no post-mortem examination, the exact cause of death could not judicially be determined. Amongst the witnesses who have been summoned were the secretary of the Gas Co. and a few others, all of whom testified to the excellent character of Souza and that he must have been greatly provoked by the Chinamen to induce him to act as he did. These Chinamen, people say, belonged to a gang of gamblers and are reputed to be bad people.

The Portuguese community in Shanghai promptly subscribed about \$2,000 for Souza's defence, and the Gas Co., being thoroughly convinced that the accused will be acquitted, granted him six months' leave with advanced salary, and to his brother, who is in the same employ, three months' leave on full pay in order to accompany him to Macao.

Our Shanghai contemporary, *O Porvir* adds, recently said that the Chinese have lately behaved themselves very insolently toward the foreigners residing in the Hankow district, provoking them without any motive and exciting them to break the peace. No wonder that Souza got into trouble.

The *N.-C. Daily News* correspondent at Wusieh telegraphed on the 1st inst. to the effect that the new silk crop is a good one. The quality of the cocoons is good. Fresh cocoons are being bought at \$55 per picul. Buyers are quiet.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 6th June.

THE DRAGON-BOAT FESTIVAL.

The Feast of Dragon-boats passed off rather quietly this year. Fewer mishaps happened because there was a less number of boats. On the third day when the Dragon-boats went to the temple of the Mother Dragon to worship, the "dragonites" had a race, and afterwards a fight; some threw earthenware jars, while others fired shots from revolvers, so that some had their heads broken or were wounded, and others jumped into the water. Pirates disguised as Dragon boatmen went to rob the pilgrims in the flower-boats.

A DEPARTURE.

Mr. L. A. Byworth, the Harbourmaster of the Imperial Maritime Customs, and Mrs. Byworth left Canton on Tuesday last for home on furlough, on account of the illness of the latter. By consent of Mr. A. Nielsen, Deputy Commissioner, a very handsome silver cup accompanied by an address was presented to him by the officers of the outdoor department as a token of esteem. When the souvenir was presented speeches were made and toasts proposed, to which Mr. Byworth replied in appropriate terms.

CURING THE OPIUM HABIT.

An anti-opium society has been formed in Canton whose object is to cure opium-smokers of their vice by giving them medicinal pills. Each member of the society is to contribute five dollars a month. If he gets cured his money is returned to him and if he is not cured within a month his contribution is forfeited to the society. A large number of smokers have joined the society and the number to be cured within a month is reported to be sixteen.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGI SAN PO."]

OUTRAGEOUS ROBBERS.

The robbers in Canton are as fierce as ever. In fact the whole city is overrun with robbers, though the officials have imitated the methods of Hongkong in having constables policing the streets day and night. On the evening of the 28th ultimo a gang of miscreants broke into the house of a petty military officer in Oi-Leong Lane, near the Tartar City, and carried away his concubine, together with a young maid-servant. The captives were carried away in chairs which were placed at the door of the house in readiness by the culprits. It is reported that the offence was committed by the Banner people, who hitherto have been the most lawless criminals in the city, for they are under the supervision and jurisdiction of the Tartar General who always does his utmost to protect them and make light of any complaint presented to him. When the Banner people, having committed theft, robbery or other crimes, run back to the Tartar City, the soldiers and lukongs dare not go into the Tartar City and arrest them, for they have no right to do so, and even when a Banner criminal is caught outside the Tartar City committing an offence, he must be sent back to the Tartar General for trial. It is said that the two female captives are still hidden in the Tartar City and will be sold as prostitutes later on.

THE NEW VICEROY.

For the reception of the new Viceroy, the leading merchants of the seventy-two guilds propose to decorate all the streets with flowers from the Government Wharf to the Yamen through which His Excellency is to pass. The leading merchants also held a meeting in Szun College to decide plans on reform, which will be sent to the Viceroy as soon as he arrives.

REBELS.

It is reported in official circles that a telegram has been lately received that the rebels are still very active and very fierce. The soldiers, being greatly outnumbered, are unable to cope with them. The Prefect of Chong Chow has wired to the authorities repeatedly, asking reinforcements, saying that the district is overrun with rebels and that the city is in great danger of being taken by the rebels. In answer to the demand of the Prefect, Ho Taotai and Vice-General Pun with a good number of soldiers have been sent to the scene.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 3rd June.

STEAM TRAFFIC.

Never within recent experience of this port was there such an immense steam traffic as at present. Every day almost we have a vessel or two coming or going. They nearly exclusively bring in rice from Haiphong and Hongkong. The price of the grain is, nevertheless, high and steady, with a lower tendency.

THE HEALTH.

of the port at present is all that could be wished for, although the thermometer is ranging from 90 deg. to 91 deg. in the shade in the middle of the day, at night the southerly breeze generally relieves the oppression caused by the heat during the day, and sometimes we have also the usual summer showers. We expect to pass the summer this year without the annual recurrence of plague for which this port has become famous. There were, it is true, one or two sporadic cases of plague amongst the sea-faring section of the community on the beach some six weeks ago. I was told that a correspondent wrote to a northern daily recently, reporting that plague was spreading here in epidemic fashion. I can only contradict the misleading statement.

A SO-CALLED CONVERT.

A native Christian, Tam Sau Sun, nicknamed K'ao Seong Fu, i.e., prime minister, is now a fugitive. The authorities are looking for him for having impersonated a Customs House detective recently. A man of nefarious practices who only requires a little opportunity to develop his bad inclinations, a little while ago he came across some ginseng in the possession of a cook or steward employed on board a steamer, who had the roots safely landed and concealed in a house by the beach. Tam at once took possession of the ginseng, stating that he was a Customs detective and took the goods away. Somehow or other the matter reached the ears of the Commissioner of Customs, who communicated with the local authorities with a view to arresting the impostor, who, having smelt a rat, made himself scarce and is still at large. This man had a rather bad record, having been in prison once, some four years ago, for impersonating a B.C. native priest in Limchow whilst he was merely a pretended believer. After his term of imprisonment he became a Protestant proselyte by entering the English mission, but, having probably learned that he could not obtain much advantage there, he then joined the German mission. It is not easy to define his present position; as a matter of fact, there are many of these pseudo-Christians nowadays who only join the missions for mere earthly benefit. Not long ago a young native clerk in a foreign hong, having run himself into debt, joined the mission apparently with no other design than to gain time to slip away in peace and safety, which he did a short time after.

TRAFFICKING IN GIRLS.

This port has become famous for this nefarious traffic, though the evil practice is of no recent date, so much so that there is a old standing order in the Customs Department that the officers on duty on board steamers must exercise the greatest care that no female native is allowed to leave the port unless she is provided with a permit, and it must be guaranteed by a respectable resident or a shop that the holder of such permit is a member of his or his foki's family. Formerly the Customs used to take the trouble of verifying the truth of the application before issuing these permits, but since three or four years ago, with the creation of an Office of Foreign Affairs under a Weiyeun (especially to deal with matters relating to native emigration to foreign ports) the duties of ascertaining the genuineness or otherwise of the applications devolved on the Office of Foreign Affairs, at whose request only the Customs would then issue the necessary permits. It happened recently that an energetic Customs Office received private information that two old women were leaving, taking away with them a few girls on board a steamer then about to sail. The officer in question went on board to investigate and found there were the two women

and the girls as described by his informer, but they were duly provided with the usual permits and the officer was therefore unable to prevent them leaving, although he had great suspicions about the affair. The following day the officer began to make enquiries as to who had applied the permits were issued on and discovered that two men representing themselves as members of two respectable shops, had applied for the permits and that the seals of the shops were forged for the purpose. The Commissioner of Customs requested the Weiyeun to arrest the two men. One was nowhere to be found, and the other was discovered to be a servant to the Weiyeun of the Chinese Telegraph Office here; master and servant left the same day on board a Chinese gunboat for Canton. The Commissioner telegraphed to the Weiyeun to bring back his servant, which he did in due course and the culprit is now in Limchow goal undergoing a term of imprisonment. Too much praise cannot be given to the Customs Officer concerned, through whose initiative the fraud was discovered. I need not add here that the detectives in Hongkong will doubtless exercise more vigilance in future on board steamers from this port to look for girls imported for illicit purposes.

THE SITUATION IN KWANGSI.

The N.-C. Daily News learns from a reliable source that in response to the demand of Governor Wang Chih-ch'un of Kwangsi, who deems himself insulted by people in Shanghai because they have charged him with attempting to borrow troops and money from the French in Tonkin, and called public meetings in Chang Su-ho's garden and elsewhere to protest against his conduct, that the Peking Central Government has sent down orders to Shanghai for the arrest and punishment of six persons residing in the Settlements on the charge of sedition and calling together seditious gatherings. Amongst these six patriots are a Hanlin, two ch'ü-jên, a licentiate, and a Buddhist priest, a retired ex official of high rank. The N.-C. D.N. has it also on good authority that a certain high mandarin residing in Shanghai has been at the bottom of this persecution, and that when the meetings took place at the Chang Gardens he ordered the Taotai to stop them and arrest the leaders of the movement. The Taotai being more broad-minded, hesitated to take action, until he was forced to by direct orders from H. E. En Shou, the Governor at Soochow.

In its Notes on Native Affairs our Shanghai contemporary also mentions that on the 4th inst. the local mandarins received the following telegram from Kwangsi:—"The rebellion in Kwangsi is increasing and daily getting more dangerous and more formidable. The Imperial army here is too weak to be of any use and is insufficient to garrison all important cities and towns. The latest news is that the rebels have besieged the city of Chungchou, belonging to the prefectural division of T'ai-pingfu (Kwangsi province) and that unless relief is sent at once it will certainly fall into the hands of the rebels. The prefect of T'ai-pingfu, Wu, has been sending appeals for troops and the Governor (Wang Ch'un) has therefore ordered a force under Ho Taotai and Major-General Pan to proceed to Chungchou to raise the siege." Chungchou is a departmental city, about forty-five miles north-east of Lungchow, and some twenty miles west of the Kwangtung border. T'ai-pingfu city is about twenty odd miles from the Annamese borders.

In spite of the assertions of Governor Wang Chih-ch'un of Kwangsi that he has restored order in the province, says the N.-C. Daily News in another issue, news still constantly arrives from private and independent sources in Kwangsi alleging quite the contrary. If what is stated in the following letter from a reliable source, which we now translate, is to be believed, Governor Wang Chih-ch'un's troubles are only just beginning:—"The rebels of Kwangsi are daily getting stronger, especially in the vicinity of the prefectural city of Kweilin, the capital of Kwangsi, namely in the districts of Yining and Hsangan. Here the rebels, unlike other bands, conduct the government of the two cities, collect regular taxes after the style of foreign municipalities, enlist troops, and drill,

pay, and arm them after foreign methods. A perfectly regular, peaceful, and beneficent government rules the region comprised within the areas of the two districts and there is not a single official of the Manchu dynasty in them, while the inhabitants appear quite contented at their lot. Strict discipline is enforced amongst the rebels by the officers, who give all their commands in English, while the arms and ammunition used are of the most modern. These are constantly arriving, being brought by friends and partisans from the neighbouring provinces, so that there is now a very large accumulation of the best of arms and ammunition for a numerous and formidable army. In fact the region spoken of above has been apparently chosen as the headquarters of the rebellion and the men there are to form the nucleus of a great army for the conquest of the Empire from the Manchus. There is immense enthusiasm amongst the rank and file of the so-called rebel army in Yüning and Hsügan, which counts a great deal in a movement like this. As soon as everything has been prepared and ready for active hostilities, the mandarins will find the present one ten times more formidable than the former Taiping rebellion. With the risings which have so far taken place throughout the province of Kwangsi, desultory and scattered as they have been, every one already knows that the mandarins have invariably been unable to deal, and that they have been again and again defeated and put to flight by these wandering bands of rebels and disbanded soldiery. What then must happen when in place of these scattered and badly led and still worse organised bands the mandarins find themselves opposed by an army which is just the contrary of what has gone before?"

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following notes are from the *P. & T. Times* down to the 29th ult.:

The Russian authorities propose to start an English newspaper at Port Arthur to support Russian interests in the Far East.

General Wogack has been appointed to the Tsar's personal suite.

M. Waebor, Russian special Envoy to Corea, is said to have been presented with a purse of yen 10,000 by the Korean Government on going home.

The Russian and Austrian Ministers arrived at Tientsin on the 28th, en route to Peking. Their Excellencies travelled by the Siberian route and were only two weeks from Moscow to Tientsin.

The Korean Government is said to have wired to the Governor at Wiju to instruct all Russians in that district to leave immediately. We can quite fancy the order being carried out.

Prince Ching's mental anxiety continues to unfit him for his duties and he has been granted further leave. Most of the members of the Government may be expected to have family bereavements or alarming health symptoms at this juncture.

From Taokao to Tai Wen-chen the Peking Syndicate is said to have expended Tls. 163,000 in land purchase for the railway line. Surveys are now being made beyond Tai Wen-chen, and further purchases will be made in the autumn.

The grave-yard of a certain Prince in a district south of Peking is reported to have been robbed and the coffins opened recently, the matter being urgently reported to the Peking Prefect. The robbers obtained a large quantity of gold and jewelry from the coffins.

Some trouble has occurred in the Honan College, the students all leaving on account of some undue harshness on the part of the principals. The Governor investigated the matter, censured the teachers and persuaded the students to return.

Taotai Yao Sung-yu, the son-in-law of Sheng Tajen, who died some three weeks ago, rashly offered to refit the Summer Palace with electric light at his own expense. Since his death, which occurred quite suddenly, Eunuch Li and Prince Ching have suggested that Sheng carry out his late son-in-law's intentions. Sheng is now somewhat seriously considering whether sons-in-law are not rather a mistake.

An editorial article says:—"The monetary situation remains much the same, save for the

inevitable tendency to get worse so long as things are left to drift. The officials and leading commercial men in whose hands it rests to make some arrangement, are steadily working to get hold of some ready money. They believe they have satisfactorily settled the question of instalment repayments now, and the present scheme is to obtain from two of the foreign banks an advance of 1½ millions on the security of the local gentry, who will themselves raise another 1½ million, and then to get the 1 million promised by the Government, making 4 millions in all. This would doubtless cause temporary relief, but it is questionable whether it would do more. We have no great confidence in any scheme which does not bear more directly on the re-establishment of sound credit in business circles.

COREAN AFFAIRS.

According to a Seoul despatch to the *Tokyo Asahi* dated the 28th ult., M. Pavloff, Russian Minister to Corea, presented to the Seoul Government on the previous day a notification saying that the Timber Company had, after formally intimating to the Korean authorities the appointment of Baron Gunsburg as its business representative, started some construction works in compliance with the stipulations in the convention, by virtue of which the Company had been granted the right of carrying on its business in the Peninsula. The notification in question is said to have also intimated that as the Russian Minister will in future be too busy to trouble himself with the conduct of the negotiations between the Korean Government and the Company, the Seoul authorities might declare what Department of their Government has jurisdiction over the timber-felling business, so as to enable Baron Gunsburg to open direct negotiations with that Department.

In connection with the Russian enterprise on the banks of the Yalu river, the *Kokumin's* Seoul correspondent reports under date of the 28th ult., that there is an indication, that, in consequence of the recent negotiations between Russia and Corea as to the real meaning of some of the provisions of the timber-felling convention, a new arrangement will be made between the two countries, whereby the Northern Power will agree to remove the centre of her enterprise now located at Yong-Ampho to some other place.

TIBET.

In its Notes on Native Affairs the *N.-C. Daily News* translates the following memorial to the Empress Dowager transmitted by telegraph to Peking by Yü Kong, Chinese Imperial Resident at Lhassa, the capital of Tibet and the headquarters of the Dalai Lama:—

"Owing to the receipt of most urgent news from the Tibetan frontiers your Majesty's servant at once summoned before him the Tibetan Councillors of State [or "Kablon," of whom there are four who transact the secular affairs of Tibet.—Translator], and addressed words of exhortation to them, saying that the presence of Britishers accompanied by troops within the Tibetan frontiers was a matter threatening danger to the country and entirely due to the conduct of the Tibetans last year when they put obstacles in the way of Chinese officials in regard to the supply of ponies and coolies, thereby throwing away the chance of making friendly arrangements with the British officials. The memorialist further informed the said Councillors of State that if it turned out in the end that British officials were preparing for a long expedition in order to penetrate right into the heart of the country he would certainly go in person to the Tibetan frontier and try his best to persuade the British officials to abstain from it, and at the same time mark out the boundaries of our respective territories. On the other hand, the Tibetans were warned not to act in the way they had hitherto been obstinately accustomed to do. Should, however, the British refuse to listen to the words of exhortation and persist in their intention to enter Tibet, the said Councillors of State should not seek to obstruct the progress of the British by force of arms, but continue to reason peaceably with the invaders and so obviate the danger of a

resort to arms and the breaking of peaceful relations. If the Tibetans were willing to listen to the advice given them there would still be a possibility to settle the matter in a friendly manner. Should, however, these Councillors of State listen to the words of the Dalai Lama and other heads of their religion, and start fighting the British expedition and bring about actual hostilities, the danger to the country resulting from such a line of action will be greater than words can picture. Indeed, in such a state of affairs, even if the memorialist were to attempt to restore peace between the belligerents, all his efforts would surely be futile. The memorialist finally exhorted them to be most careful this time and not endanger the country by acting foolishly again. In conclusion, the memorialist observed that during his exhortation, although the Tibetan officials put on, outwardly, every semblance of respectfully listening to his words, yet the obstinacy, ignorance, and recklessness of the Tibetans are so well known that he cannot guarantee their obedience to his exhortations should anything untoward happen. He, however, takes this opportunity to inform their Majesties how matters stand in his jurisdiction." Receipt: "Noted."

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. POLLOCK'S QUESTIONS AT THE SANITARY BOARD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 8th June.

SIR,—In the answer given by the A. M. O. H. to Mr. Pollock's question No. 1, re dead bodies found in public streets, I noticed that 37.5 per cent. of the plague cases were dumped and that the figure is the highest compared with the returns for the last five years. The main reasons, I understand, are that the Chinese in this Colony are afraid of the Sanitary Board more than the pestilence itself, as they know too well that, if they report a plague case to the Sanitary Authorities, both the living and the dead are to suffer alike to a certain extent—either their property destroyed or, in many instances, valuable articles lost or stolen during the disinfecting operations, and that people living above and under the flat in which a case of plague occurred are also to share the same suffering by being forced to remain inside the house for a considerable time waiting for the arrival of the disinfecting gang for their "torture."

It is no wonder that the plague spreads in so rapid a manner, for the unfortunate occupants of the same house might very likely get infected while being forcibly confined there just to share the fate brought to them by the victimised. Such being the case, I can hardly enumerate how many of these unfortunate people, after having been unconcernedly imprisoned in a plague-infected house for a very unreasonable time, have actually contracted the disease and run away from the Colony just to die peacefully elsewhere. It is exceedingly lamentable to picture such a scene of which many of your readers, especially the draftsmen of the Bye-law, might have absolutely no knowledge. It is now gratifying to learn, however, that Mr. Pollock, having at last realised the fact that some of the sanitary measures are too drastic altogether to be carried out, has now proposed to the Board that only the furniture and clothing of the persons on the same floor in which a case of plague occurs are to be disinfected in future. The Chinese should give Mr. Pollock great credit for his timely suggestion and thank him for his pains in taking up in detail the various points raised by "Anti-Dumping."

The A. M. O. H. has also mentioned that the Board are now offering compensation for articles destroyed during disinfection, which seems a very wise course; but I should like to know how many of those disinfecting inspectors and their underlings have been informed of the Board's intention. I should suggest that these inspectors and the whole gang of coolies should be held responsible for damages done to all articles, and that the necessary compensation should be paid out of their salaries and wages, and not from the Government, so that they may know that by unreasonably throwing away other

people's money, they themselves have to lose something as well.

Apologising for taking up so much of your space.—Yours, etc.,

HUMANITY.

THE V.R.C.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 9th June.

SIR.—As the annual general meeting of the V.R.C. takes place on the 18th inst., permit me to take this opportunity to call the Committee's attention to the very high prices for drinks now imposed by the Bar sub-committee. Of course, I quite admit that it may have been found necessary, owing to the recent decline in exchange, to slightly increase the bar price list; but, considering that there never has been, in the history of the Club, any loss in this direction, and further considering that the objects and purposes of the Club are not inclined to gain, I think that the Committee should, in some instances, reduce the present price list to a certain extent.

One of the principal advantages of the Club is its object to improve the young men of the Colony. Now, is it reasonable that these youths, should they elect to indulge in a "lemon-squash" (one of the most popular V.R.C. drinks) should pay as much as 20 cents? It must be remembered that in going over, the young man has the extra expenditure of launch hire!

Looking at the Bar sub-committee's report for last year, I see that the previous increase in the price list was made so recently as August, 1902, and I think it could not be said that, to avoid any likely deficit, this last increase in February was absolutely necessary.

I do not suggest that the whole list be reduced, but I think the Committee will agree with me that, on reconsideration, they will find many items which require curtailing. That they should certainly primarily consider the financial position of the young man, and not gain, is the humble opinion of

AN OLD MEMBER.

THE PLAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 10th June.

SIR.—Judging by the daily returns I notice that the number of cases of plague for the last few days discovered, reported or otherwise, still show an upward tendency and the death rate is almost 99 per cent.

Plague patients are as a rule to be immediately removed to the Plague Hospital directly they are discovered, and according to the returns published in all the newspapers, most of them or practically all of them generally die on the way or shortly after admission to the hospitals. It is well known to all that the percentage of cured and discharged from such hospitals is very low, practically nil.

In my opinion, I should think that the removal of such plague-patients from one part of the town to another does in all cases more harm than good both to the patients themselves and the general community at large. The shock at being removed to a strange place without being attended by their own people is terrible enough to kill the patients and the sight of their transportation to the place of treatment is sufficiently bad to affect the health of the general public. Under these circumstances I think it is advisable, subject to a few weeks' trial, that the patients when reported to the Sanitary Board should be allowed to remain in their own houses, nursed by one or two of their own people and attended by their own doctors, European or Chinese at their option, but under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Board. All other inmates of the same house must be kept away as long as the patient remains there. If the patients choose to get away from this Colony they are at liberty to do so, but the furniture and clothing of all persons formerly living in the same flat must be thoroughly disinfected afterwards, and in case the patients die in the premises, their bodies are to be delivered up to the Sanitary Board for burial at certain places chosen by the relatives of the victims. In justice to both the patients and their relatives the Sanitary Board should give them every chance of looking after

themselves while they are still alive. Thanking you for insertion of the above in your valuable paper.—Yours, &c.,

HOPE.

GAS IN HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 12th June.

SIR.—Frequent complaints are current in the Colony about the bad gas supplied. For the benefit of the public in general, the worthy directors of the Hongkong and China Gas Company should at once make an investigation into the matter and have things put right. In Shanghai the price of gas for 1,000 cubic feet is, if I am not mistaken, \$1.75, and the light is decidedly better; we here have to pay 100 per cent. more for much inferior light. If the Shanghai Gas Co. are contented to charge only \$1.75, surely the Hongkong and China Gas Co., Ltd., have no reason to charge double. The Company lately put 50 cents more on every 1,000 cubic feet, and the public willingly accepted the increase without grumbling; but we have no reason to grumble when we find inferior light after the increase of price.—Yours, etc.,

ONAIRDA.

KWANGSI FAMINE FUND.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Kwangsi Famine Fund acknowledges with thanks the following subscriptions:—

Amount previously acknowledged	\$33,252.08
Cawasjee Pallanje & Co.	125
R. D. Vanier	5
M. L.	25
Subscriptions from Chinese as per separate lists below	6,220

Total \$39,627.08

The following contributed \$200 each:—Li Kin Tong, Ip Sham Keng (Amoy), Wong Ki Sam.

The following contributed \$100 each:—Chan Chik U, Messrs. Tung Kee, Wan Cho Choi, Messrs. Shun Kee, Messrs. Chee On, Chan Shut Cho, Messrs. Wang Hing, Messrs. Wa Hing, Messrs. Chui Cheong Loong, Messrs. Fat Kee, Tse Ching Po, Messrs. Lai Chik Sin, Mrs. Chan To She.

The following contributed \$70:—Ip Sham Kum.

The following contributed \$50 each:—Messrs. Yee Hing Loong, Messrs. Tak Shing Hong, Messrs. Shun Hang Hong, Messrs. Shing On Hong, Messrs. Chung Yu Hong, Messrs. Hang Sing Hing Kee, Messrs. Kwong Nam Loong, Messrs. Kwong Fat Yuen, Messrs. Kung Hing Loong, Chow Sui Lam, Messrs. Wai Loong Lan, Messrs. Po Hing Cheung, Messrs. Kwong Cheung Wo, Messrs. Kwong Yik Tai, Messrs. Wing Cheong, Messrs. Lo Chung Kui, Compradores, Siemssen & Co., Dodwell & Co., Melchers & Co., Bank of South China, Osaka Shosen Kaisha, Bradley & Co., Ross & Co. and Arnold Karberg, Tang Wan Chiu, Ng Shau Kuk, In Kui Yuen, Fung Shu Tong, Sham Chi Chun, Lung Shin Po, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, S. W. Tso, Chau Siu Ki, Leung Ngan Pan, Lam Pat Nam, Messrs. Chiu Loong Tai, A Tack, Messrs. Wing Kee, Messrs. Tai Sing, Messrs. Nam Hing Loong, Messrs. Chun Tai, Chan Kwai Cheung, Chan Cho, Chan Ting, Chan To, Chan Chun, Messrs. Shiu Cheong Bank, Messrs. Lok Hing, Messrs. Sun Shing, Messrs. Wa Loong, Messrs. Yeung Hing, Messrs. Chuen Hing, Messrs. Lo Hang Kee, Messrs. Tack Hing, Messrs. Chin Cheung, Messrs. Tai Sing paper mill Co. Ho Kam Tong, Tse Shi Ping, Anonymous, Messrs. Yu Shing Shun, and Five Chinese ladies, Messrs. Wing Fat Hong, On Wing Chan, Chun Hing Loong, Sang Wo Tai, Wing Yu Shing, Lee Wing Hing, Kwong Chuen On, Yan On, Cheong Loong, Wo Cheong, Wo Shing, Fook Hing, Fook On Cheong, Wing On, Hing Loong Lan, Yuet Loong Lan, Lun Loong Lan, Sun Loong Lan, Hang Loong Lan, Yu Loong Lan, Hang Fat Lan, Yee Cheong Loong Lan, Wang Loong Lan, and Sun Loong Lan.

The following contributed \$30:—Messrs. Kwen, Yan Hong.

The following contributed \$15:—Messrs. Kwong Hung Tai.

The following contributed \$5:—Ng Fo.

CHINA-BORNEO CO., LD.

The statutory meeting of the China-Borneo Co., Ltd., was held on the 6th inst., at No. 4, Queen's Buildings. Mr. A. G. Wood (chairman) presided, and there were also present Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G. (consulting committee), Messrs. Leo Ozorio, O. Baptista, Leung Shiu Lam, and J. Wheeley (general manager). Having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, This meeting is called to comply with the requirements of the Companies Acts and is the Company's first and statutory meeting, it having been registered on the 7th February last. You are aware that by agreements with the China-Borneo Company and the Borneo Hardwood Company the businesses of those two Companies were acquired as from the 1st January, 1902, so that the present Company's operations commenced from that date. It has needed time to reorganise the businesses of these two companies, but it is making good progress, and we have work enough in hand and in prospect to make a good start with the business of the present new company; while the more we learn of the properties we have acquired we have the greater cause to feel satisfied with them. Have any gentlemen anything to say or any questions to ask?

There being no questions the CHAIRMAN intimated that there was no other business before the meeting.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

The following is the twenty-sixth report of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha (Japan Mail Steamship Company, Limited), presented to the shareholders at the half-yearly ordinary general meeting, held at Tokyo, on the 25th May:—

The gross profits of the Company for the past half-year amount to \$461,415.237 yen, out of which there has been paid:—

Depreciation of the Company's fleet and property ...	Yen 674,739.710
Insurance fund ...	143,881.560
Ships' structural repair fund ...	404,672.380

Yen 1,228,294.640

leaving a balance of 2,936,305.415 yen, including 703,184.828 yen brought forward from last account.

The directors now propose that 111,656.030 yen be added to the reserve fund, raising it to 1,781,579.726 yen; 700,000.000 yen to the fund for the extension of services and improvement of the fleet, bringing that amount to 2,700,000.000 yen; and that 71,358.110 yen be allowed as directors' and auditors' fees. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of ten per cent., together with two per cent. as special dividend, thus making twelve per cent. per annum, which will absorb 1,320.000 yen. The balance, 733,291.275 yen, will be carried forward to the next account.

RENPEI KONDO, Chairman.

Head Office, Tokyo, 25th May, 1903.

HONGKONG'S ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following statement of the Colony's assets and liabilities on the 31st March, 1903, is published in the Gazette:—

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Bank balance		3,642.87	
Crown agents' balance		10,746.30	
Advances, &c.		48,199.54	
Subsidiary coins		200,000.00	
Total assets		\$262,588.71	
Balance		455,818.76	
Total		\$718,407.47	
LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Deposits not available		432,063.07	
Crown agents' drafts		24,000.00	
Money order remittances		16,425.40	
Total		\$718,487.47	

Estimate of silver at mint \$115,715

CHINA MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO., LD.

The fifth annual general meeting of the above Company was held at the head office, No. 13A, Canton Road, Shanghai, on Friday, the 29th ult. There were present: Messrs. John Ford (Chairman), Lee Yung-du (Director), J. A. Wattie (Managing Director), Wong I-ding, Zia Ze-ding, C. F. Smith, S. Knocker, J. M. Mussen, Lefferts Knox, S. J. Tsao, C. S. F. Lloyd, B. H. Parker, R. Markwick, J. E. Lemiére, J. A. Lowrie, F. X. Gutierrez, J. McCutcheon, R. Dallas, King Chun-kee, representing 4,040 shares, and also several policy-holders of the Company.

On the resolution of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. R. N. PARKER, Mr. R. Markwick was appointed secretary to the meeting.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting, and also the minutes of the last meeting, which were unanimously confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN said—The report and accounts have been in your hands for some time and with your permission will be taken as read. In moving the adoption of the report it is certainly a very pleasing duty to call your attention to what has already been said in the report. There has been an increase in every important item and I should like to emphasise some of the features in comparison with last year. Our insurance in force has increased over 100 per cent. Our reserve has increased over 100 per cent. Our income for premiums over 100 per cent. Our income for interest increased over 100 per cent. In fact, in presenting this report we may practically say that if we were satisfied with our report of last year we should be doubly so this year, as almost every item has doubled on last year's statement. We had real estate to the book value of Tls. 35,106 90. This, I am pleased to inform you, has been disposed of since the beginning of the year at a fair profit. You will notice also that we do not take credit in our assets for any overdue interest, which goes to show the excellence of our investments. As to this year it is almost impossible for any Company to continue increasing as we have in the past, that is, increasing over the past year at the rate of 100 per cent. I am, however, pleased to inform you that since the beginning of the 6th year, April 1st, we have secured applications for new business, amounting to over Tals 1,100,000, which is a great increase over the same length of time last year. Our outlook for the coming year is very bright. I have nothing further to say and if any of you have anything to ask I will be very pleased to answer before moving the adoption of the report and accounts. There being no questions, I have now much pleasure in moving that the report and accounts for our fifth year be passed.

This motion was seconded by Mr. WATTIE and carried unanimously.

Mr. WATTIE.—In seconding the motion I should like to draw your attention to a few things in the statement. The small number of death claims shows what care our medical referees has taken in doing his work. Our income last year was about Tls. 623,000, which is about Tls 2,000 for every working day of the year. This year, so far our income amounts to Tls. 105,000 as against Tls. 55,000 during the corresponding period of last year, and we therefore anticipate a very large increase at the next meeting.

The CHAIRMAN.—The next thing is the dividend. Again after mature consideration your directors have thought it proper not to pay more than 8 per cent. this year, so as to further strengthen our position and to go on increasing our reserve, which you will see from the report are increasing very rapidly. I have much pleasure in proposing that a dividend of 8 per cent. be paid for last year.

Mr. KNOX said that he had much pleasure in seconding the motion. No other companies needed to strengthen their business more than Insurance Companies. The China Mutual had made a phenomenal success in its fifth year, yet it was better to be more and more careful in looking after the interests of policy-holders, so as to put the agents in a position to obtain more business.

The motion, when put to the meeting, was carried *nem. diss.*

The CHAIRMAN said that the Company had been fortunate enough to secure Mr. Foo Chu-chun, of Penang, as a director. That gentleman had a great deal of influence in the Straits, and it was only right that there should be a director who would represent the Company in the South. The Company had had a Chinese gentleman acting as their agent there before, but he had died and it had therefore become necessary to appoint some one in his stead.

Mr. KNOX proposed and Mr. F. F. SMITH seconded, that the appointment of Mr. Foo Chu-chun as a director of the Company be confirmed. This resolution was also carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said that he now had a very pleasant duty to perform, and that was to propose a vote of thanks to the district agents and managers for the very able manner in which they had conducted the business during the past year. It gave him much pleasure to propose a vote of thanks and appreciation.

Mr. WATTIE said that he had very much pleasure in seconding as it was entirely due to these gentlemen that such a large volume of business had been obtained.

The vote was carried *nem. diss.*

ZIA ZE-DING—Five years ago I was present at the first annual meeting of this Company. On that occasion with a feeling of great satisfaction I said a few words on the success the pioneers of this Company had achieved. Now on looking over the fifth annual report of this Company I am transported beyond my own sanguine expectations. As one who has had a hand in the formation of this Company I expected most successful results, but the results have been far greater than my expectations. We have made gigantic strides in our business. Just look at the figures before you. Taking the figures roughly, from a reserve of seven thousand taels we have now a reserve of four hundred and fifty-eight thousand taels today; from our assets of fifty-eight thousand taels we have now assets of six hundred and forty thousand taels. As to the insurance in force, from five hundred and seventy-three thousand taels we have now leapt into about seven million taels. These very successful results have not come out of themselves. There have been guiding minds. Great battles cannot be won without the guiding minds of great generals. This, now a great company, has had its great generals. I need not tell you who the people are to whom this great success is due. Mr. Wattie, our worthy managing director, has watched and worked for the progress of this Company from its infancy, and through the efforts of our Chairman, Mr. John Ford, and of our managers and agents in different places, we have laid the solid foundation of our Company, with the promise of a brilliant future.

The CHAIRMAN.—In accordance with our articles of association Mr. Wattie is this year the retiring director. I have much pleasure in proposing that he be re-elected a director of the Company.

Mr. KNOX seconded this resolution, which was carried unanimously.

It was then proposed by Mr. MUSSEN, seconded by Mr. LEMIÉRE, and carried unanimously, that Mr. R. F. Mastlack be re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN.—That concludes the business of the meeting, but before going away I must ask you to accord a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Wattie. It is primarily due to him that we find our Company at the end of the fifth year in such a flourishing condition. The agents in the outports know that from the very frequent letters which he writes to them. I trust that he will be long with us and continue to fulfil his multifarious duties in connection with this Company.

Mr. LEE said that since he had been on the board of directors the business had been doubled every year. This was due to the managers and agents and to the confidence which policy-holders felt in the Company.

The vote was carried with applause, and Mr. WATTIE thanked those present for their kindness. He said it was due to the representatives which the Company had in the field that it was in such a flourishing condition. They were the people who deserved praise and they could not be spoken of too highly.

The CHAIRMAN—I agree with Mr. Wattie

to a certain extent, but he is bashful with regard to his own share of the work.

Mr. KNOX—I think the credit is due to Mr. Wattie and the head office. Mr. Wattie's assistance puts the agents into the way of doing what business they do.

The meeting then adjourned.—N.C. Daily News.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 8th June.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR H. S. BEEKELEY (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

HO CHU TING v. THE WING SHING.

This was a claim for a partnership account and to wind up the business of the Causeway Bay Dairy. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law, instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada, solicitor, for the defendant.

Mr. Pollock read the pleadings on both sides, and said the plaintiff, Ho Chu Ting, had been employed for about ten years in Kennedy's Dairy. Some time in April, 1902, he was approached by the defendant's son, Ting Lap King, who suggested that the plaintiff should give up his employment in Kennedy's and take a share in the defendant's dairy farm at Causeway Bay, known indefinitely as either the Wing Shing or the Wing Shing Po. It would appear that several conversations took place between the plaintiff and the defendant's son regarding the matter, and eventually the defendant's son asked the plaintiff to come down to Wanchai and see the defendant himself, Ting Shing Po, at his house. The plaintiff went, and it was stated to him that there were 42 cows at this Wing Shing dairy farm at Causeway Bay, that the business was valued at \$8,000, and that if he the plaintiff, would pay \$4,000 he could have a half-share in the business with the defendant. The plaintiff agreed to this, but said he could not find the money immediately. Then and there it was arranged that as soon as the plaintiff could obtain the money and should hand it over he would be entitled to one-half share in the business. In pursuance of that arrangement, the plaintiff set about obtaining the money. From one Ho Chak Wai, a brother of the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, he borrowed \$3,000 on a promissory note, and from another Chinese gentleman with whom he had previously deposited \$1,000 he recovered that sum and \$45 interest thereon. On 31st May, 1902, having then sufficient money to buy a half-share in the Wing Shing dairy farm, he paid the sum of \$4,000 to the defendant's son at 22, Cochrane Street, the town depot of the dairy, and at the latter's request wrote out a receipt which was "chopped" by the defendant's son. The case for the plaintiff was that, although the defendant denied that any partnership existed or ever did exist, the defendant agreed in that house in Wanchai to admit the plaintiff to a half-share in the Wing Shing business, that the plaintiff obtained the necessary sum of \$4,000 in the way described, that the money was paid over by the plaintiff to the defendant's son in pursuance of the previous arrangement entered into in the house in Wanchai, and that the defendant's son stamped the receipt for the money with the chop of the Wing Shing dairy.

The proceedings continued until one o'clock, when the Court adjourned.

The N.C. Daily News of the 4th inst. writes:—It is with very great regret that we have to announce this morning the death of Mr. R. B. Moorhead, Commissioner of Customs at Ningpo, from which port he arrived here last month in very bad health. Mr. Moorhead, who was a native of Ireland, joined the Customs in July, 1868, and attained the rank of Commissioner in October, 1877. He was given Civil Rank of the Third Class by the Chinese Government, and the decoration of the Double Dragon, Third Division, First Class. Mr. Moorhead was always kind and courteous to all, and was very much liked and respected. He leaves a widow, four sons, and three daughters, with whom deep sympathy is felt in their loss.

A TEST CASE AT THE POLICE COURT.

On Friday, 12th June, before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Police Magistrate, the case of *Wm. Powell, Ltd., v. Ng Kai* concluded.

R. G. Heckford, manager of William Powell, Ltd., Queen's Road, summoned Ng Kai, the firm's No. 1 tailor, on the following charges:— (1) Disobeying the dressmaker's instructions; (2) disregarding the hours of the firm; (3) not executing orders within a reasonable time when work was handed over to the defendant to perform; (4) insolence to the dressmaker by not answering when spoken to; (5) inattention to instructions; (6) falling back (*sic*) that he did not answer after he was told that he had not performed the work properly; (7) spoiling goods, especially light material, placed in his hands for making up; and (8) filthy and dirty condition of the sewing machines.

The case which came up on remand from the 4th inst., is the first brought under the Ordinance, and is interesting for that very fact alone. Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, solicitor, appeared for the complainant, and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. J. S. Harston, solicitor), for the defendant. His Worship gave his decision as follows:—

The defendant Ng Kai was summoned before me by R. G. Heckford, manager of Messrs. William Powell, Limited, on eight charges under Section 12 of the Employers' and Servants' Ordinance, 1902. There was a written contract between the parties which is as follows:—"This agreement witnesseth that I, Ng Kai, otherwise —, do hereby agree with Messrs. William Powell, Limited, retail merchants of Hongkong, as follows:—For the sum of twenty-five dollars per month for the first six months, twenty-eight dollars per month for the following six months, thirty-two dollars per month for the next twelve months, and thirty-six dollars per month for the next twelve months, and such amounts as William Powell, Limited, shall pay for the making-up of garments by myself and the workmen I engage. I agree to execute in first-class style and workmanship all making-up orders taken by the said firm or its representatives, and keep the times of contracts made by them, and hold myself responsible for the good condition of machines and sundries used by myself and my workmen. I also hold myself responsible for the honesty of my employees, and will make good any losses that may occur through their dishonesty, bad workmanship, or other causes. On these conditions only Messrs. William Powell, Limited, agree to engage me at the progressive salary herebefore mentioned, and I do hereby further agree that I will not leave the employ of the said William Powell, Limited, within three years of the twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and two, without the written consent of the firm's manager. Dated this 22nd day of October, 1902." (Here follow signatures.) Mr. Slade, on behalf of the defendant, submitted that there was no "contract of service" as defined by the Ordinance, nor was he a "servant" within the meaning of the said Ordinance. Mr. Slade also submitted a second point, that inasmuch as the provisions of Section 7 have not been complied with, the case does not come within the Ordinance. I am of opinion that there was no "contract of service" to work personally for the firm. The defendant's position is that of a person who supplies labour, and there is no suggestion in the agreement that he should enter the firm. Amongst other classes defined in the Ordinance which cannot possibly apply to the present case there is also the following definition:—"Servant shall include any person being a mechanic, artificer, or other handicraftsman, engine-driver, or fireman." The point was raised as to whether the defendant could be regarded as an "artificer." In *Ingram v. Barnes* (7 E. and B., p. 115) it is laid down that the term "artificer" applies only to those who are actually and personally engaged or employed to do mechanical work or the like, and not to those taking contracts for labour to be done by others. He must contract for his own labour exclusively as distinguished from one who contracts to supply the result of the labour

of others or of himself and others. Assuming for the purposes of argument that the position of the defendant is that of a *tailor*, I am of opinion that he would not be included in the general words "or other handicraftsman," as these words are in my opinion *ejusdem generis* to the special words "mechanic" and "artificer." Where it appears that the class which it is sought to bring within an Act was known to the Legislature at the time the Act was passed, and that class is omitted, it must be supposed to have been omitted intentionally. It is impossible to suppose that so numerous and extensive a class as "tailors" would be referred to under general words if it was meant to be included. (See judgment of Blackburn, J., in *Queen v. Cleworth*, 4 B. and S. 934.) It is therefore unnecessary for me to give a decision on the second preliminary point raised. My finding is therefore for the defendant, and I order the summons to be dismissed.

Mr. Harston asked if his Worship had power under the Ordinance to award the defendant costs.

His Worship—No, I don't think I have.

Mr. Harston—I have not a copy of the Ordinance with me, but I think this is a case where, if your Worship has the power, costs should be awarded.

His Worship—You can refer to the Ordinance and renew your application, if necessary.

Mr. Harston—Very well, your Worship.

HONGKONG.

The plague cases to date number 1,170.

The German gunboat *Luchs* arrived on the 7th inst. from Canton.

The bowling handicap at the Hongkong Club has been won by Mr. Joseph Hooper.

His Majesty's ship *Tamar* on the 10th inst. re-occupied her anchorage after a brief visit to Kowloon dock.

The issue of H. M. the King's exequatur empowering M. Liebert to assume the post of Consul for France at Hongkong is notified in the *Gazette*.

The names of Messrs. P. N. H. Jones, C. B. Thomas and T. Tyrwhitt have been added to the list of authorised architects prepared under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 7th June, were 257 non-Chinese and 74 Chinese to the former, and 44 non-Chinese and 2,413 Chinese to the latter institution.

Captain E. D. Sanders's resignation of his commission as captain in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps has been accepted by H. E. the Governor, who has granted Capt. Sanders permission to wear the uniform of his rank.

The following gentlemen have been elected as representatives of St. John's Cathedral on the Colonial Church Council:—Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Hon. R. M. Ramsey, R.N., C.I.S.O., and Messrs. J. M. Beck, A. Bryer, and H. W. Slade.

The funeral took place at Happy Valley on the 9th inst. of Chief Officer Hennis, of the Norddeutscher-Lloyd steamer *Taichow*, who shot himself through the head in his cabin the previous day. Family troubles are supposed to have been responsible.

Two Chinamen were committed for trial at the Magistracy on the 9th inst. by Mr. F. A. Hazeland on a charge of attempting to obtain 35 bags of sugar, value \$560, from a shop at 172, Wing Lok Street, on a forged document purporting to bear the shop mark of Bismarck & Co. The shopkeeper's suspicions were aroused by seeing loitering outside his door, the while another made arrangements for the taking over of the sugar, a man who had called earlier to ask if that particular kind of sugar was kept in stock. A *foki* was despatched to Bismarck & Co. to ascertain whether they had ordered the sugar, and, the reply being in the negative, the defendants were arrested, in spite of an attempt to get away when they saw the game was up.

It is said inspectors of police in the Colony are to have a more distinguishing uniform soon. At present there is nothing in the appearance of the uniform to indicate that its wearers are police inspectors and it is proposed to have the lettering "H. K. P." and a star on the shoulder-strap of the tunic, which will be of military cut. *Appropos*, some Sanitary Board inspectors have started to embellish their summer uniforms, the uncompromising plainness of which is doubtless objectionable to their æsthetic tastes. They display a great partiality for collar, which is worn military fashion, "once up and down again," and varies in height from one to about four inches.

The following returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during May, 1903, are certified by the managers of the respective banks:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	3,508,175	1,900,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	10,39,400	7,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited	449,212	150,000
Total	\$14,298,796	\$9,050,000

On the 8th inst. in Union Church, the marriage was solemnised of Sergeant W. G. Gerrard of the Hongkong Police to Miss Elizabeth A. Porter, daughter of Mr. Morgan Porter, Loxham Gardens, South Kensington, London. The Rev. C. H. Hickling was the officiating clergyman. The bride was given away by Inspector J. H. Gidley, H. K. P., Sergeant W. J. Kerr was best man, and Mrs. Gidley attended on the bride. After the ceremony the party went to Connaught House where a wedding repast was served and the health of the young couple was toasted by Inspector Gidley and Sergeant Kerr. The bridegroom replied in felicitous terms. Mr. G. G. Burnett proposed the toast of "The Old Folks at Home." Subsequently the marriage party proceeded to Blake Pier, and, after being photographed, the newly-wedded pair took launch for Shung Shui where Sergeant Gerrard is at present stationed. Among those present in church was Miss Blake. The wedding presents included handsome gifts from H. E. the Governor and Lady Blake and Miss Blake.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR JUNE.
The following cards were returned:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.			
Mr. C. A. Parker	93	— 18 =	75
Mr. E. J. Grist	84	— 5 =	79
Dr. W. B. Drew	94	— 15 =	79
Mr. C. P. Chater	97	— 16 =	81
Mr. E. V. D. Parr	97	— 15 =	82
Mr. T. C. Gray	99	— 17 =	82
Mr. C. E. H. Beavis	88	— 2 =	86
Mr. J. Johnstone	92	— 5 =	87
Mr. W. J. Gresson	111	— 16 =	95

19 entries.

POOL.			
Mr. C. A. Parker	93	— 18 =	75
Mr. E. J. Grist	84	— 5 =	79
Mr. C. P. Chater	97	— 16 =	81
Mr. E. V. D. Parr	97	— 15 =	82
Mr. T. C. Gray	99	— 17 =	82
Mr. C. E. H. Beavis	88	— 2 =	86
Mr. J. Johnstone	92	— 5 =	87

11 entries.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 12th June.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 12th June.—The prices are slightly declining, market being weak.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	88.35 to 89.40	pc.
Do. " 2, White	7.65 to 7.70	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	6.05 to 6.10	"
Do. " 2, Brown	5.90 to 5.95	"
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.25 to 8.35	"
Do. " 1, White	7.55 to 7.6	"
Do. " 1, Brown	5.90 to 5.95	"
Do. " 2, Brown	5.75 to 5.80	"
Fookchow Sugar Candy	12.30 to 12.35	"
Shekloong	10.50 to 10.50	"

RICE.

Hongkong, 12th June.—No arrivals having been reported, the prices are going upward.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.05 to 3.70
Round, Good quality	5.00 to 5.50
Long	5.25 to 5.80
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	4.10 to 4.15
Garden, No. 1	4.35 to 4.40
White	5.30 to 5.35
Fine Cargo	5.45 to 5.50

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per M. M. steamer *Salasie*, sailed on 2nd June. For Marseilles:—139 bales raw silk, 204 bales waste silk, 22 cases silk, 100 boxes tea, 2 cases furniture, 3 cases curios, 17 packages hair, 10 packages bamboo. For Lyons:—668 bales raw silk. For London:—21 bales raw silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Valatta*, sailed on 6th June. For London:—180 bales raw silk, 201 half-cases tea, 350 rolls matting, 18 bales cane, 6 cases cigars, 4 cases feathers, 8 cases hair, 6 cases empty iron flasks, 1 case private effects, 21 cases silks. For London:—25 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—100 bales waste silk, 99 bales raw silk, 2 packages matting sample. For Lyons:—175 bales raw silk. For Milan:—5 bales raw silk. For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk, 1 case silks.

Per s.s. *Bombay*, sailed on the 11th June. For London and/or Glasgow:—100 cases preserves. For Glasgow:—10 cases chinaware. For London:—2 cases cigars, 7 cases preserves, 1 case feathers, 18 cases woodware, 18 cases chinaware, 10 cases private effects, 11 packages sundries. For Marseilles:—50 bags waste silk.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 12th June, 1903.—On market continues extremely dull, and there is very little business to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai under the influence of small buying orders have advanced to \$685 with sales and probable sellers at the rate. London is unchanged at £63. Nationals have advanced to \$28 buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions after small sales at \$500 are in some request at this figure. China Traders can be procured at \$61. Cantons are strong at \$177½ with no shares obtainable under \$18. North Chinas and Yangtszes are unaltered at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have sold at \$330, \$332½ and \$335 and the market closes with probable buyers at the latter rate. Chinas have been booked at \$84 and \$85 and close firm.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been taken off the market at \$37½, \$37½ and \$37½, and close with probable further buyers at the latter rate. Indo-Chinas have sold at \$106 and \$107 and are still in demand at \$106. China and Manilas are easier with sales at \$25 and further sellers at \$20. Douglasses have receded to \$42 sellers. Star Ferries are unchanged. Shell Transports after sales at the reduced rate of £1. 5s. 0d. are wanted to some extent at this figure.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have sold at \$106 and \$107, and close with sellers at the latter rate. Luzons can be placed at \$10.

MINING.—Punjoms have sold at \$3 and \$2.80, and there are further sellers at the higher rate. Jebebus are offering at \$1½. Raubs are unchanged at \$8½ buyers, and Charbonnages at \$600 sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are somewhat easier with small sellers at \$215, after sales at this rate and \$216. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are steady with a few shares probably obtainable at \$90. New Amoy Docks are quiet at \$40. Farnhams have declined in the North to Tls. \$87½ sellers.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold at \$170 and are now obtainable at \$168. Kowloon Lands have further declined to \$38 sellers. West Point is quiet at \$52. Humphreys Estates are still in demand at \$12½ with small sales reported at \$12½. Hongkong Hotels are firmer with buyers at \$151; and Oriente Hotels are still in demand at \$30.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have sold in the North at the reduced rate of Tls. 35. There are no other changes or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have advanced to \$25 with some sellers after sales at \$24. Elctrics (old) can be placed at \$13½ and (new) at \$7½. Fenwicks have sold at the reduced rate of \$47. Bell's Asbestos have advanced to \$5 with sales and buyers, and United Asbestos can be placed at the improved rate of \$9½. China Providents are procurable at \$9½, and Watkins at \$7½. China Light and Powers are wanted at \$6 and Powells at \$9½.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	{ \$685. L'don, £63.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$28, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$28, buyers
Foun. Shares	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$5, sales & buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$10½, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$6, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.75, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$107, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited.	\$500	\$350, sellers
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$18.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 35, sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160.
Hongkong	\$100	\$16, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$11½, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47, sales
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$25, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$13½.
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$320.
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$0	\$13½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$151, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$24.
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$90.
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$13½, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$215, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$177½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$85.
China Traders	\$25	\$61.
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$332½.
North China	\$25	Tls. 220.
Straits	\$20	\$1, nominal
Union	\$100	\$500, sales & buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$130, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$168, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$52.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$16, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$600, sellers
Jebebu	\$5	\$1½, sellers
Punjom	\$10½	\$2.80, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$5 cents, sellers
Raubs	18	\$8.75, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$40.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$3½, buyers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9½, buyers
Robinson Co. Piano, Ltd.	\$50	\$50.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$26, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$25	nominal
H., Canton and M.	\$50	\$42, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$15	\$37½, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$10	\$106, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$25½, sales & buy. \$15½, sales & buy.
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	nominal.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9½, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$155.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$23, buyers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 4th June, 1903.—Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their report for this date state:—The Bank holidays from the 30th May to the 1st June interfered with business. Since the opening of the market on the 2nd a considerable business has been done in Langkats at improving rates. At the close prices are slightly weaker. BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks.—There is no business reported locally. The market in the South is quoted \$665 buyers. The London quotation is £63. MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions, sellers at \$505. China Traders, buyers at \$60. North China Insurance.—Buyers at \$222½. FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkongs wanted at \$315. Sellers of Chinas at \$34. SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steam Boats, \$37 buyers. Douglasses, buyers at \$42. In Tug Boat and Lighter Co.'s no business reported. Indo-Chinas.—Business has been done for cash at Tls. 76, and 76, 76½, 77 for the Settlement and for July at 77. There are buyers at these rates. DOCKS AND WHARVES.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, sales at \$213. Kowloon Wharves, buyers at \$87. S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co.—We have to report a rise in this stock. Business has been done at Tls. 190 for the Settlement, \$192½ for July; there are buyers for June Settlement at 192½, and 125 for July. With a firm offer cash shares might be placed at 190. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves.—No business reported. SUGARS.—No business reported, buyers of Chinese at \$104. MINING.—No business reported. Sellers at quotations. LANDS.—Shanghai Lands, buyers at Tls. 107½. Hongkong Lands have changed hands at \$169. Humphreys are wanted at \$12½. INDUSTRIAL.—In Cotton Stocks no business is reported, market weak at quotations; with the exception of Low Kung Mow, who have enquired for at Tls. 40. Shanghai Ices could be placed at Tls. 23½. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat. On the 1st inst., shares were placed at Tls. 277½ and 280 for cash; on the 2nd cash shares were placed at 282½, 287½, 292½, 305 and 300 with sales for June sett. at 302½ and 307½, and July at 312½, September at 322½ and 325, and 325 for October. On the 3rd cash shares were placed at 305, with 307½ and 310 for June, 315 and 317½, July, 382½ and 330, 327½, September, and 335 October. At closing rates are easier cash shares being obtainable at 302½ with sales for September at 325. STORES AND HOTELS.—A transaction in Weeks is reported at \$24. Llewellyns.—Extraordinary meeting at which a proposal was carried to reduce the capital of the Company, subject to a confirmatory meeting. LOANS.—Shanghai Land 6 per cent. Debentures have been placed at par; 8 per cent. Gas Debentures at par, and Waterworks at par.

EXCHANGE.

SATURDAY, 13th June.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/8½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/8½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	21½
Credits 4 months' sight	215

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	172
-----------	-----

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	41
Credits, 60 days' sight	41½

ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer

Bank, on demand	125½
-----------------	------

ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer

Bank, on demand	125½
-----------------	------

ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight

Private, 30 days' sight	71½
-------------------------	-----

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	81½
-----------	-----

ON MANILA.—

On demand	1 p.c. pm.
-----------	------------

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	nominal
-----------	---------

ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	101½
-----------	------

ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	1 p.c. pm.
-----------	------------

ON SAIGON.—

On demand	½ p.c. pm.
-----------	------------

ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	62½
-----------	-----

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate \$11.83

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 62

BAR SILVER, per oz. 24½

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP. *Pelevs, Alcinous, Antenor, Glenfarg, Kawachi Maru, Stentor, Dardanus.*
 FOR LONDON. *Chusan, Berlemond, Glenfarg, Pelevs, Alcinous, Antenor, Kawachi Maru, Stentor, Dardanus.*
 FOR LIVERPOOL. *Prometheus, Hyson.*
 FOR MARSEILLES. *Alcinous, Pelevs, Antenor, Oceanien, Princess Marie, Kawachi Maru, Stentor, Dardanus.*
 FOR BREMEN. *Suevia.*
 FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG. *Princess Marie, Strassburg, Wurzberg, Suevia, Wurnberg, Badenia.*
 FOR TRIESTE. *Moravia.*
 FOR ODESSA. *H. Lerche.*
 FOR NEW YORK. *Charles Tiberghien, Arara, Glenesk.*
 FOR VICTORIA, B.C. *Shinano Maru, Machaon, Tosa Maru, Olympia.*
 FOR VANCOUVER. *Empress of India, Tartar.*
 FOR PORTLAND (OR). *Indrasamha.*
 FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS. *Eastern, Kumano Maru, Chingtu.*
 FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO. *Bombay Maru.*
 FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA. *Catherine Apcar.*

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

June—

ARRIVALS.

5, C. de Richmond, Fr. str., from New York.
 5, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 5, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 5, Hailong, British str., from Swatow.
 5, Indrasamha, British str., from Portland.
 5, Marie Rickmers, Ger. str., from Canton.
 5, Nanyang, German str., from Manila.
 5, Pakhoi, British str., from Hankow.
 5, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 5, Phraang, German str., from Bangkok.
 5, Progress, Russian str., from Tournon.
 5, Taichow, German str., from Sandakan.
 6, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
 6, Calchas, British str., from Foochow.
 6, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 6, Hsi-ho, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 6, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 6, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 6, Mauban, American str., from Manila.
 6, Ocean, British battleship, from Mirs Bay.
 6, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 7, Benmohr, British str., from Shanghai.
 7, Chihli, British str., from Chefoo.
 7, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
 7, Hikosan Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 7, Indrawadi, British str., from Manila.
 7, Karin, Swedish str., from Chefoo.
 7, Kweilin, British str., from Shanghai.
 7, Luchs, German gunboat, from Canton.
 7, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 7, Wuhu, British str., from Canton.
 8, Clara Jebson, Ger. str., from Chinkiang.
 8, Clavering, British str., from Vladivostok.
 8, Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
 8, Glenloch, British str., from London.
 8, Gregory Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
 8, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 8, Hoihow, French str., from Pakhoi.
 8, Hongwan I, British str., from Rangoon.
 8, Hunan, British str., from Canton.
 8, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 8, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
 8, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
 8, Telemachus, British str., from Liverpool.
 8, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.
 8, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 9, Elita Nessoock, German str., from Canton.
 9, Fausang, British str., from Canton.
 9, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
 9, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 9, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 9, Nankin, British str., from Japan.
 9, Progress, German str., from Tournon.
 9, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 9, Tremont, American str., from Moji.
 9, Saga, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 9, Sishan, British str., from Canton.
 10, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 10, Kobsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
 10, Mercedes, British str., from N. Zealand.
 10, Prince Albert, Brit. str., from Freemantle.
 10, Quanguam, French str., from Saigon.
 10, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
 10, Victoria, Swedish str., from Saigon.
 11, Bankoku Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 11, Bombay, British str., from Shanghai.
 11, Canton, British str., from Wuhu.

11, Ceylon, British str., from London.
 11, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 11, Hopsang, British str., from Samarang.
 11, Huron, British str., from M. ji.
 11, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
 11, Ningpo, British str., from Wuhu.
 11, Sado Maru, Japanese str., from Yokohama.
 11, Sullberg, German str., from Amoy.
 11, Tientsin, British str., from Canton.
 12, An Pho, British str., from Saigon.
 12, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
 12, Carl Die erichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 12, Cassius, German str., from Canton.
 12, Chiyo Maru, Japanese str., from Canton.
 12, Karin, Swedish str., from Canton.
 12, Rassijsa, Russian str., from Canton.
 12, Toonan, Chinese str., from Canton.
 12, Triglan, Austrian str., from Wuhu.
 12, Woosung, British str., from Canton.
 12, Wuchang, British str., from Manila.
 13, Benvenue, British str., from London.
 13, Chihli, British str., from Canton.
 13, Damar, Norwegian str., from Menado.
 13, Doyo Maru, Japanese str., from Canton.
 13, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., from Saigon.
 13, Lye moon, German str., from Shanghai.
 13, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 13, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., from S. F. cisco.
 13, Olympia, Amr. str., from Tacoma.
 13, Oanfa, British str., from Tacoma.
 13, P. C. C. K'ao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
 13, Pobeda, Rus. str., from Sabang Pulo Wele.
 13, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 13, Stuttgart, German str., from Shanghai.
 13, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 13, Verona, German str., from K'notzu.

June—

DEPARTURES.

5, China, German str., for Swatow.
 5, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 5, Hupeh, British str., for Canton.
 5, Massilia, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Nanchang, British str., for Tientsin.
 5, Nurnberg, German str., for Shanghai.
 5, Oopaok, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.
 5, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 6, Catherine Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
 6, City of Peking, Amr. str., for S. Francisco.
 6, Empire, British str., for Australia.
 6, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 6, Heathdene, British str., for Karatsu.
 6, Kweiyang, British str., for Hongay.
 6, Marie Rickmers, Ger. str., for Chinkiang.
 6, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 6, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 6, Telemachus, British str., for Swatow.
 6, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 6, Valetta, British str., for Europe.
 6, Wineland, Danish str., for Amoy.
 7, Calchas, British str., for London.
 7, Choyang, British str., for Canton.
 7, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Canton.
 7, Hsi-ho, Chinese str., for Canton.
 7, Ocean, British cruiser, for Weihaiwei.
 7, Siam, Danish str., for Foochow.
 7, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 8, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Chinkiang.
 8, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
 8, Chihli, British str., for Canton.
 8, Indrawada, British str., for Shanghai.
 8, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
 8, Yikang, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Chwan-lan, British str., for Amoy.
 9, Clara Jebson, German str., for Canton.
 9, Decima, German str., for Penang.
 9, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
 9, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 9, Hikosan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 9, Hingsang, British str., for Samarang.
 9, Hua, French str., for Haiphong.
 9, Karin, Swedish str., for Canton.
 9, Kiuhang, British str., for Kobe.
 9, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 9, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 9, Progress, Russian str., for Tournon.
 9, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., for Swatow.
 9, Taichow, German str., for Sandakan.
 10, Eastern, British str., for Moji.
 10, Glengarry, British str., for Nagasaki.
 10, Glenloch, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Haimun, British str., for Tamsui.
 10, Holliswood, American barque, for Callao.
 10, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 10, Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 10, Mansang, British str., for Sandakan.
 10, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., for Haiphong.

10, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
 10, Telemachus, British str., for Kobe.
 10, Tremont, American str., for Manila.
 10, Wuhu, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Capri, Italian str., for Bombay.
 11, Fausang, British str., for Tientsin.
 11, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 11, Hiroshima Maru, Japanese str., for Japan.
 11, Namsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 11, Nankin, British str., for Bombay.
 11, Petchaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
 12, Bombay, British str., for London.
 12, Canton, British str., for Canton.
 12, Chingtu, British str., for Kobe.
 12, Chiyo Maru, Jap. str., for Chinkiang.
 12, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 12, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 12, Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 12, Ningpo, British str., for Canton.
 12, Tientsin, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 13, Bankoku Maru, Japanese str., for Canton.
 13, Ceylon, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Doyo Maru, Japanese str., for Hankow.
 13, Huron, British str., for Moji.
 13, Karin, Swedish str., for Chefoo.
 13, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.
 13, Progress, German str., for Tournon.
 13, Rossijsa, Russian str., for Nagasaki.
 13, Sado Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 13, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Toonan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 13, Yochow, British str., for Kobe.
 13, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Chingtu*, from Sydney, &c., Hon and Mrs. Lindsay, Mr. and Mrs. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Lempriere, Mr. and Mrs. Durrauce, Misses Newberry and Eedy, Messrs. O. Clews, Newell, Jeb Morris, P. J. Haffernan, Allen Gard and F. D. Marshall.

Per *Gregory Apcar*, from Calcutta, Dr. Jehangir, Messrs. G. C. Wheeler and C. Steinberger.

Per *Doric*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. Wm. Finch, Mrs. A. Ostreski, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Robinson, Dr. and Mrs. E. L. Potter, Mrs. Buel, Lieut. M. K. Hodgson, R.A., Messrs. Chester North, R. H. Schneelock, H. G. Fisher, F. C. Stewart, C. H. Huse, J. S. Hanna, W. Newton, G. H. Armstrong, M. F. McLaughlin and N. D. Levin.

Per *Ceylon* for Hongkong, from London, Major and Mrs. J. W. Crimston, Staff Paym. A. Wilson, Act. Lieut. J. A. Rogers, Sub-Lieut. P. R. Stevens and J. B. Pullblank and Mr. D. Tylecote; from Singapore, Mr. C. W. Hayward; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. J. T. Tyack.

Per *Sado Maru*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mrs. A. L. Cracker, Misses Sercombe, S. Knight, G. Knight and Nelson, Messrs. H. F. Christie, W. F. Roone, N. W. Cameron, T. C. Rinker, Geo. B. Hedge, Chas. F. Lauman, G. Kumabe, Thomas Bara, Jose C. Javen and Henry E. Neibert; for Singapore, Mr. Valentin Benson; for Port Said, Dr. I. Aiko; for Marseilles, Messrs. J. J. Figueira, F. S. S. nders, W. Nishiyama, M. Sugiyama, A. Tsutsumi, S. Nakada and T. Idyaki; for London, Mrs. Jonas Master and Miss Jonas, Mrs. O. Rigden and three children, Mrs. and Miss Middleton and three children, Master Ambrose, Messrs. W. M. Lick, T. A. M. Castle and M. Nagai.

DEPARTED.

Per *City of Peking*, for Shanghai, Capt. Boecker, Messrs. E. Merrett, L. S. Webb and Rischmuller; for Kobe, Mrs. Alvares, Misses Alvares and Garcia, Messrs. C. and H. A. Gall; for Yokohama, Messrs. W. N. Chandler and T. Chiba; for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. E. P. Jones, Miss Jones, Mrs. Westerhouse, Misses C. Pfortner and M. Roach, Dr. F. D. Clum, Capt. B. F. Widdrington, Revs. B. Ferrer and M. Sola, Messrs. W. W. Spencer, E. E. Cooper, J. Grouder, S. Jones, Mayor, P. van Nuy, H. W. Getchale, O. A. Currie, Lloyd Goble, R. E. Stallings, T. W. Kerr, G. C. Bennette and Chas. W. Bernhardt.

Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALE for the Concerned, at 14, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.